

MINNEDOSA



1878 - MANITOBA - 1948



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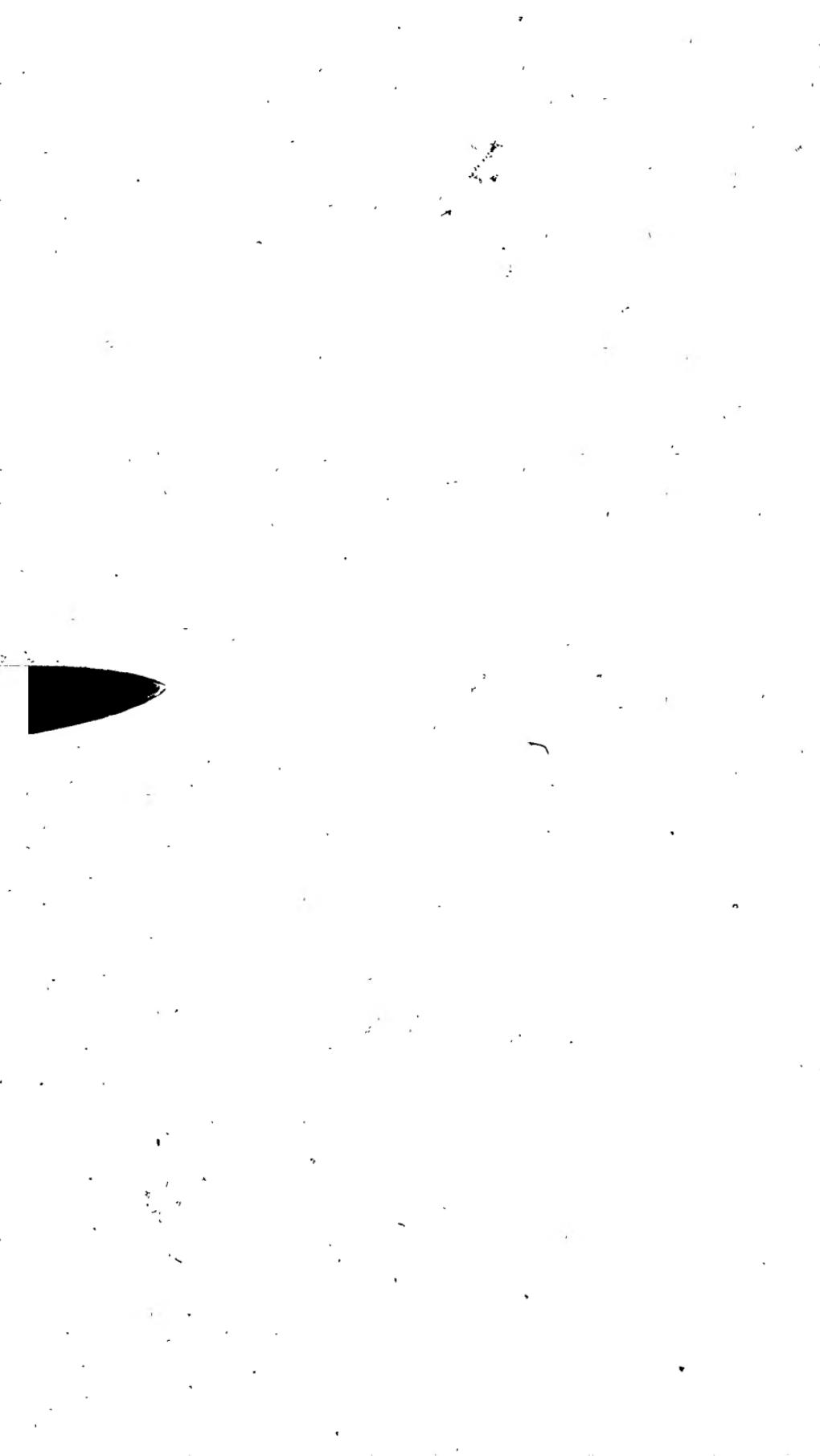
Tanner's Crossing from south-east



Town from east, 1886



Town from north-west, about 1888





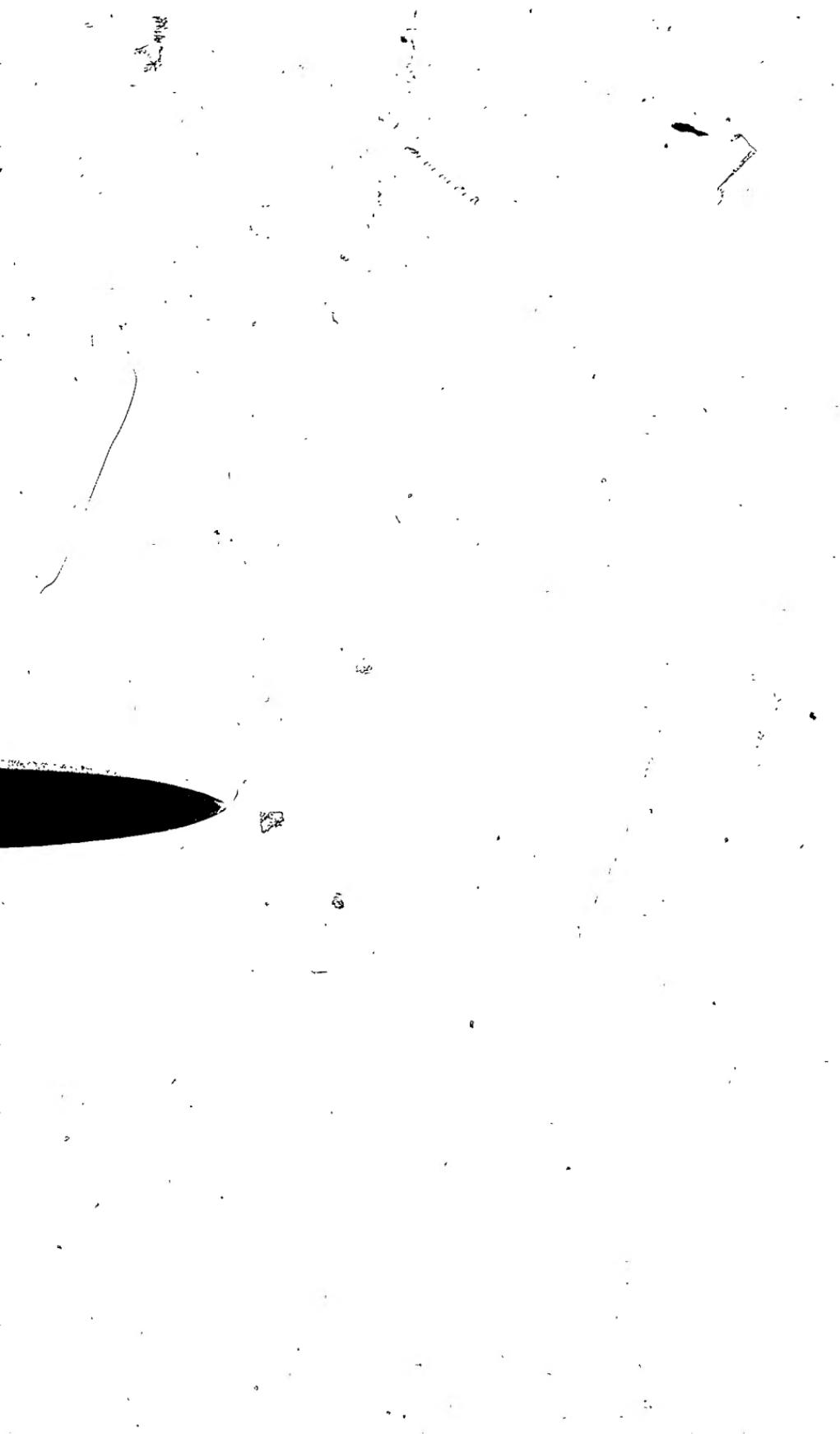
Minnedosa Avenue looking west, showing Presbyterian Church, Brunswick Hotel, log printing office and private telegraph line to Wellwood house



Main Street looking north, about 1890



Log house, home of John Lamont



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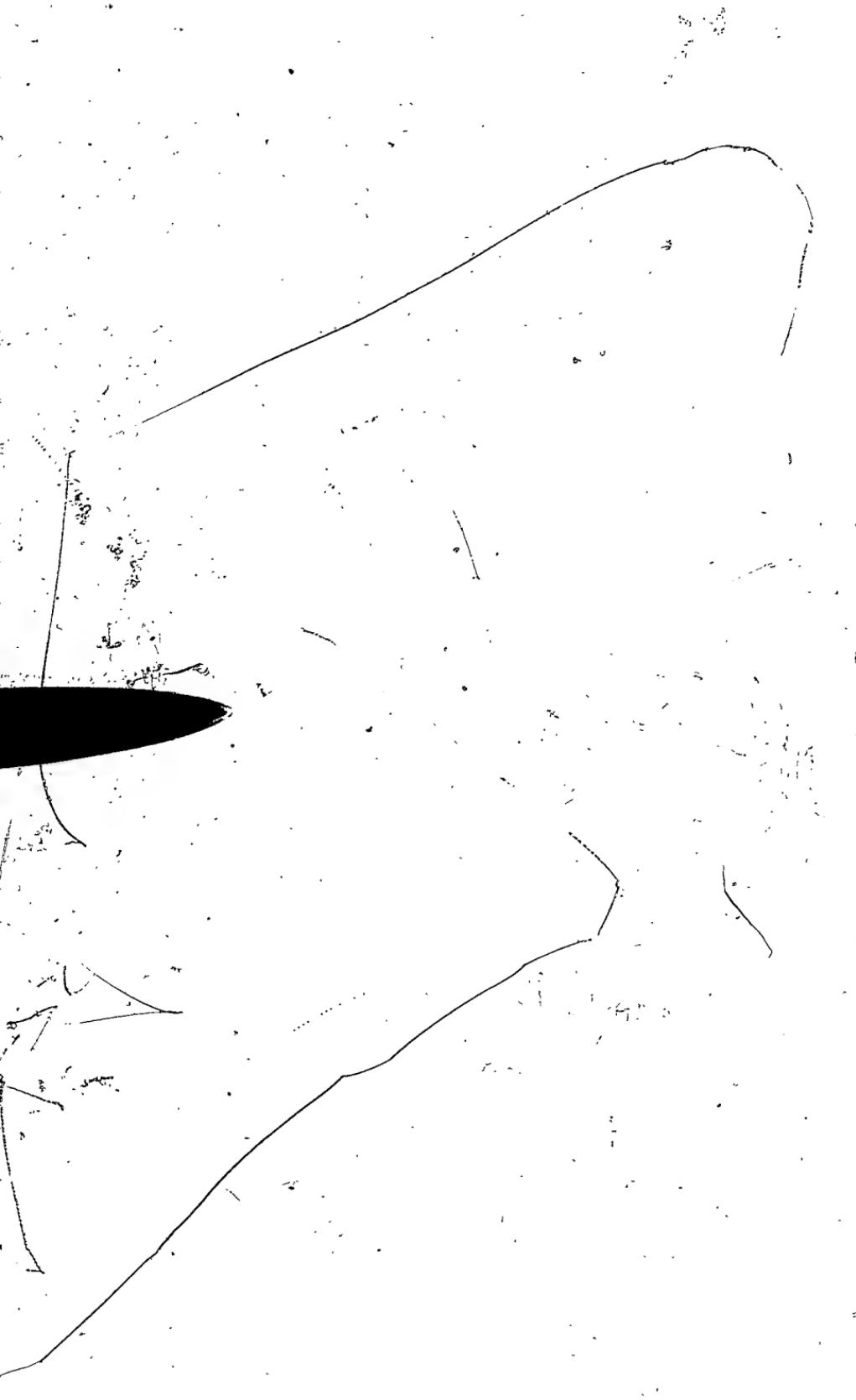
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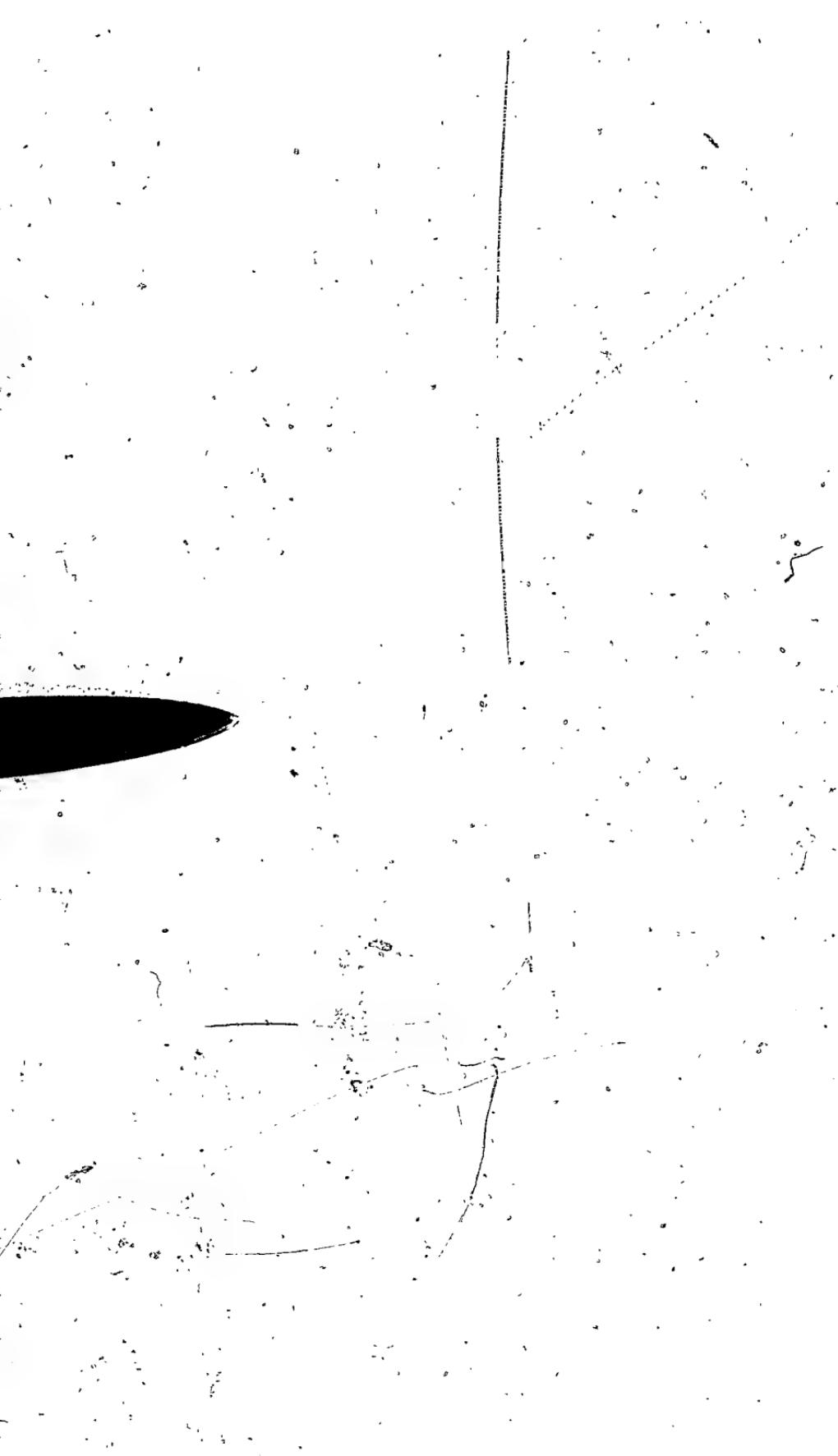
Town of Minnedosa from the south



M. & N. W. Railway bridge from the north

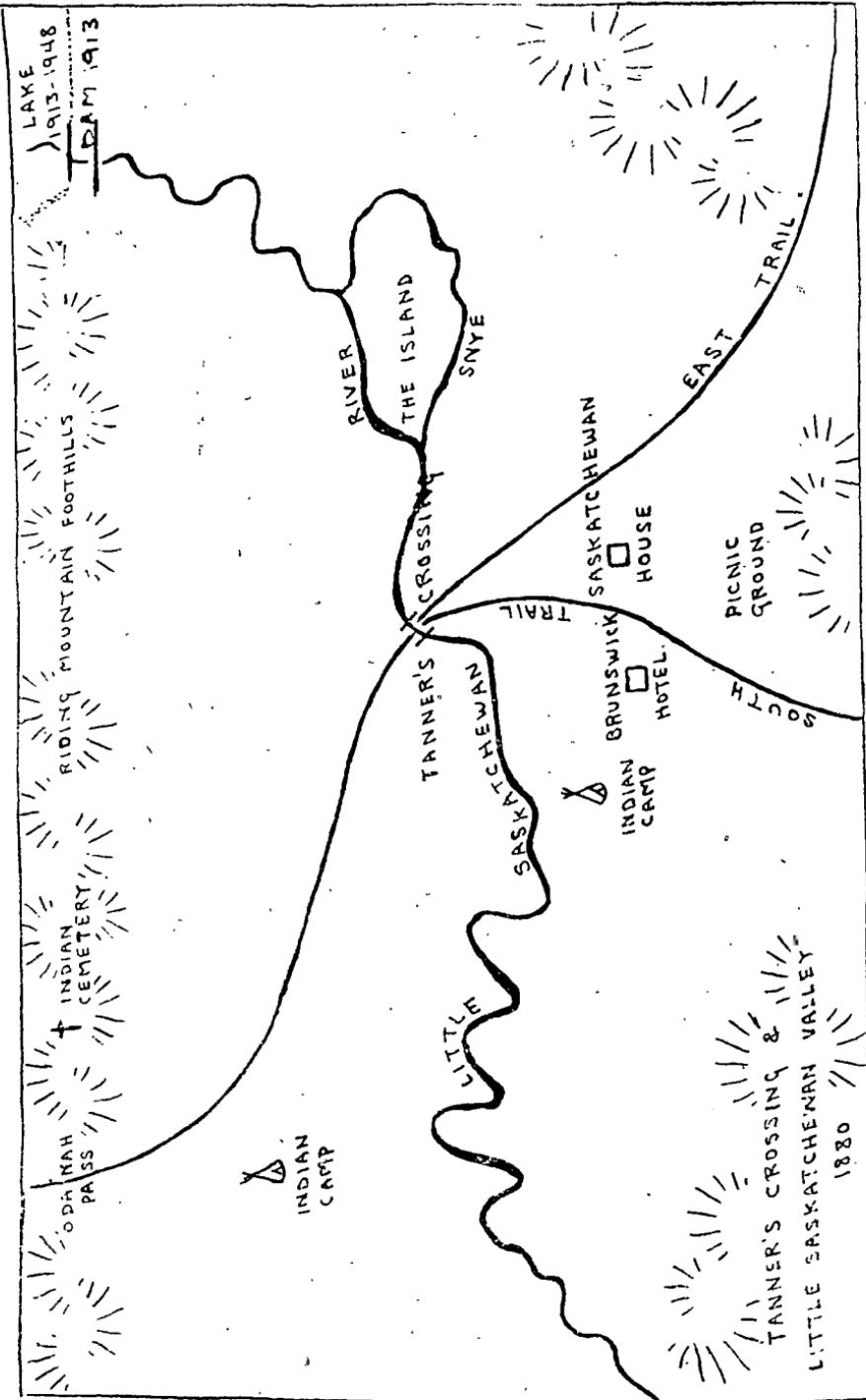


Jubilee parade looking south, 1887



INTRODUCTION

This history of Minnedosa, which our Women's Institute has compiled is very incomplete in many ways, but we feel that we have made at least a beginning to which others, who follow, may add many interesting things. We acknowledge our indebtedness to the many who have given us help. These include: Mrs. W. Mann, Prof. W. L. Morton, the Provincial Librarian, the authors of several books on Manitoba, The Minnedosa Tribune, and manuscripts of several pioneers. To them all we give our grateful thanks, and we hope that all who read this may find something of interest and information herein!





Land Titles Office



Masonic Temple, formerly Methodist Church



St. All Saints Anglican Church, Clanwilliam
All Saints



Lady Minto Hospital



J. S. Armitage Log House (remodelled)
First white man's home



"The Castle"
Built by Judge R. H. Myers



GEOGRAPHY AND TOPOGRAPHY

Section 1

"Where the sun-flecked waters of the Little Saskatchewan River winds its way through the broad and wooded valley, well treed hills on either side, and about one hundred and forty miles north-west of Winnipeg, on the main line of the Winnipeg and Edmonton branch of the Canadian Pacific Railroad, lies the beautiful pioneer town of MINNEDOSA, which was first known as "Tanner's Crossing". Tanner's Crossing was thus named because a one-armed, half-breed Indian, John Tanner, had his home there and kept the first Post Office".

No more picturesque description of the setting of our town could be given than that taken from the diary of one of the pioneers, Mr. Henry Rose, who wrote: "On the afternoon of the ninth day of April, 1879, I first looked up and down the Valley of the Little Saskatchewan River at what was known as "Tanner's Crossing." As I approached the stream I found the water very low, about thirty feet wide and two feet deep. At that place there was a good ford, most of the season, but for convenience in higher water, quite an original bridge had been stretched across, which was made of stringers of poles, quite roughly covered with material of the same sort. At my right hand a few rods away stood the most conspicuous dwelling, and adjoining it the only really Government building there—Her Majesty's Post Office.

"The former building, built of logs, was about eighteen by twenty-four feet and was covered with "Thatch", the latter, a lean-to, at the end of the dwelling, was built of the same material and similarly covered. At this place Her Majesty's mail was supposed to arrive by coach once in three weeks."

The river runs south-west from the north-east, winding about in the valley which is about one mile wide. The name Saskatchewan, meaning "running water" in the Indian language was, in 1928, officially changed to "Minnedosa", the same as the town.

In considering our history we plan to refer to the town in particular, but since our western towns depend so greatly on the agricultural areas, we must mention some of the early farmers who homesteaded the surrounding lands within a radius of four to six miles.

Again quoting from Mr. Rose's diary: "Up the valley (north-east) about half a mile stood the farm home of Mr. John Norquay, on the south-west quarter of Section 12, Township 15, Range 18, a few rods from the river. Down stream a mile or so on the west side of the river stood the Dominion Land Office where all incomers made entry for their homesteads. At the south-west, in sight, on the top of the hill, was the home of Mr. R. A. Cowan, and a little farther in the valley, the farm home, "Valley Farm", of Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Ditch, and on the north side about the same distance to the north-west was the dwelling of Mr. and Mrs. Alex Cameron.

"Tanner's Crossing was known as the north-west crossing, though there had been another one further up the river, known as the "Old Crossing". Another known as "Hare's Crossing" was about four miles down the river, and still another farther down was used by many travellers going west by the south trails.

Stoney ruts, cut by the heavily loaded Red River carts on their way westward, can still be picked out in spots along the foot of the hills.

THE INDIANS

Section 2

Tanner's Crossing was the next real settlement west of Third Crossing (later Palestine). The boundary of Manitoba, running north and south just west of Third Crossing, left this part in the North-West Territories, and was under the supervision of Governor Laird, whose base was at Battleford.

This part of the valley was the site of a very fine Indian Camping Ground. During the summer months they set up their tents, or teepees, on the south side of the river on the land now occupied by the houses west of the Anglican Church, but in winter they withdrew to the shelter of the north hills and built huts. "Odanah", the name given to the passage through the hills one mile west of town, means a "gathering" or "meeting" and certainly on the flats just below the Odanah Pass, there had been a camping ground. Mr. Murton McGinnis has in his possession a very fine collection of arrow heads gathered in the fields of his father's farm, which comprises that quarter section of land. On one of the hilltops, about the fourth east of Odanah Pass was an Indian cemetery. Here, "The Four Winds could blow away the evil spirits, and down in the valley the Spirit Guide could paddle his Ghost Canoe to carry the spirit of the departed, westward to the Land of the Setting Sun."

Mrs. Walter Mann, daughter of Mr. W. H. Ditch tells of the very fine camp of teepees that was in the valley when they arrived here in 1878. The Indians were mostly Crees, Sioux and Ojibway.

During the unrest preceding the Riel Rebellion, the Indians held war dances in all their glory of war paint and feathers, and many of the residents of the town were terrified by the threat of their presence.

Here and there farmers have picked up Indian hammers made of stone, also arrow heads, mostly of flint.

About twenty-five miles north-west of Minnedosa the Canadian Government created a "Reserve" of land for the Indians. This is known as Rolling River Reserve, as that river runs through the land.

PIONEER SETTLEMENT

Section 3

Early Settlers

Though a few brave pioneers had arrived in the district prior to the fall of 1878, it was during the summers of 1879 and 1880 that the real influx came.

Mr. Alex Cameron had come in 1874 and his oldest son, Archie, was one of the gang on the original survey work. The district of Cameron, directly north-west of Minnedosa was named after him, and his youngest son, Hugh, still lives in the district. Mr. Peter McTavish also had come earlier and passed on west about ten miles. Some others also, had taken homesteads along the trail.

However, besides those already mentioned, the names of some who settled on each side of Tanner's Crossing are: L. N. Jackson, Hugh McNabb, John Thompson, and the McLeans to the west; Angus Grant, James Brown, Alex Abel, and others to the north-west; Sanderson Bros., F. McCrea, T. Jury, William Gibson, George Soulsby and others to the north and north-east; Logan Bros., Kerr Bros., P. D. Martin, Rose Bros., and others to the east; B. Beddome, J. Jermyn, Elias Jones, Catcher and others to the south-east; S. Brugger, William Young, K. Murray, and others to the south.



PIONEER WOMEN—Mrs. Alex. Abel, Mrs. J. C. Shuttleworth, Mrs. J. M. Wellwood, Mrs. J. D. Nichol, Mrs. Jas. Brown, Mrs. Walter Mann, Mrs. R. G. McAree.



Among the "half-breeds" who lived in the valley were John Tanner, (after whom the Crossing had its name), Mr. and Mrs. John Norquay, and Mr. and Mrs. George Sanderson. Mr. and Mrs. Tanner moved away shortly after "Minnedosa" began, but in 1929 Mr. Tanner was still living at Kinesota, Manitoba, fifty years later. The Norquays and Sandersons moved away about 1883.

The first white boy to be born here was Dr. Kenning's son, called Minnedosa and later shortened to Mindo, and the first white girl was Minnedosa (Dosa) Armitage, daughter of Mr. J. S. Armitage.

Types of Houses

Since there was a plentiful supply of poplar trees on all the homesteads the natural building material was logs, and they were used in all the houses. Some were built as lean-to's, and others had gable ends where the logs were trimmed and pinned together with wooden pegs. At first there were no shingles for roofing so small logs were smoothed on one side and laid close together, then thatch was carefully placed over this.

This thatch was long coarse grass which grew plentifully around the big sloughs. Some times sod was used but not so commonly as it had to be renewed more often and also let the rain in. If there was an upstairs, it was low, and to reach it, stakes were fitted into the logs in one corner of the house. We would now call it a ladder! After the sawmill was started in 1880 the gable ends of the houses were made of lumber if the homesteader could afford it.

"Minnedosa" Begins:

At one time it was thought that the town would be built at Odanah, but evidently the river site was most popular. However, for a time there was a store as well as the Land Titles Office at Odanah.

In August, 1879, H. G. Henderson built a log house on the south side of the river, east of the present Main street, using the front room as a small store, and the back part as living quarters. That fall Mr. P. J. McDermott, a young Irishman, came into the valley with a Red River cart loaded with goods, for sale. He and Henderson became partners, though McDermott opened a store in a tent at Odanah for a time, and later, when the town was established he moved his goods back and took over the business from Mr. Henderson. For over fifty years Mr. McDermott was a leading merchant here and he built the large brick store now operated by Bajus Bros. He died here in 1938.

In 1880 there was a rush of settlers to the district and Jermyn and Gillis opened a store. J. S. Armitage came to the valley and opened the first grist and sawmill. Logs were floated down the river from the north, and there was a steady demand for lumber as the settlers built log houses and, when possible, finished off the ends, above the plate, with boards.

It was J. S. Armitage who suggested the name of Minnedosa for the town. This means "Flowing Water" in the Sioux language, and the name was popularly adopted very quickly.

Others who soon established businesses here were John Wake, who brought a large herd of cattle in 1881, and became the first butcher; G. W. Beynon, who opened a law office; Thos. Boyd, who was the third postmaster, following Mr. Mamby who took over from J. Tanner; and Mr. E. O. Dennison who acted as Justice of the Peace.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Section 4

Travel and Roads

Most of the early settlers came to our district either in covered wagons drawn by oxen, or horses, or on foot. If the family was coming, wagons were used, though Mr. and Mrs. McArce came in a caboose or van fastened on a sleigh, as they came from Winnipeg in March, 1880.

Minnedosa was on the north trail towards the settlement further west, and tons of freight were carried over the roads which were often wet and soggy in the spring or stony and rough in dry weather. The springs of 1879 and 1880 were very wet and many stories are told of those who travelled being stuck in sloughs and having to get help to get across. That winter, "the snow was very deep and the travelled roads like turnpikes, packed hard, with snow from three to six feet deep or more, and in small bluffs the banks were ten to twenty feet deep. Snow was fully six feet deep on the level and many snowbanks were left by May 1st." (H. Rose).

Some travelled from Winnipeg to Portage la Prairie by steamboat up the Assiniboine River, and the remainder of the way on foot or buckboard. "Aunt Mary" Rose was one of these and she tells in her diary about the boat using wood in the engines and having to stop quite often to take on wood. Miss Rose's trunks were sent on to Grand Valley (Brandon) where they were unloaded and brought over by horses and wagons. She says, "The Minnesota" boat is 170 feet long and has 250 tons weight." Mr. George Soulsby, who homesteaded north east near Clanwilliam walked from Portage but had to hire a man with his boat to row him across the White Mud River to Westbourne.

Railroads

In the council minutes of July 4th, 1883, a by-law was passed granting the sum of \$30,000 as a bonus to the Manitoba and North-Western Company if they would run their railroad through our town. This must have been carried out, as on September 12th the same year another by-law was passed authorizing the issue of debentures amounting to \$20,000, part of which was to be used to purchase a right-of-way and station grounds. By the end of the year the road was built to Minnedosa, coming from Palestine (Gladstone) and extended on to Harrowby by 1885.

Previous to this "In 1880 the Dominion Government made the announcement that the main line of the C.P.R. was going to cross the Little Saskatchewan at this point, and dominion lands were laid off in belts, Belt A taking in four miles on either side of the railway, such land being listed at \$4.00 per acre. Following Belt A were B, C. and D, as the distance from the railway increased. It was at this time that the land boom started, the results of which were felt for a number of years. When the Dominion Government surrendered the Charter for building the C.P.R. to a private company, the route was changed as it is at present, via Brandon, and the price of lands lowered." (From W. G. Sanderson).

Minnedosa was early made a divisional point on the Manitoba and North-Western lines and shops were built and land for yards was bought.

Telegraph service was installed as soon after the railroad came as the poles and wire could be planted. Miss Minnie Boyd (later Mrs. W. H. Sparling) was one of the first operators.



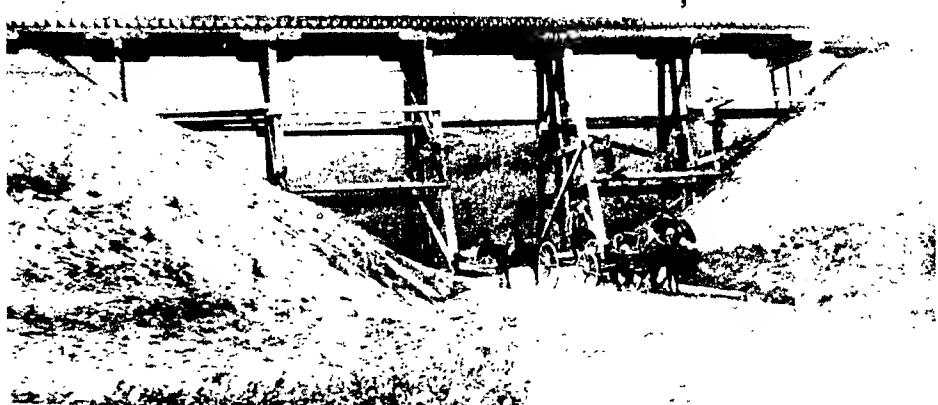
M. & N. W. Roundhouse, taken 1897



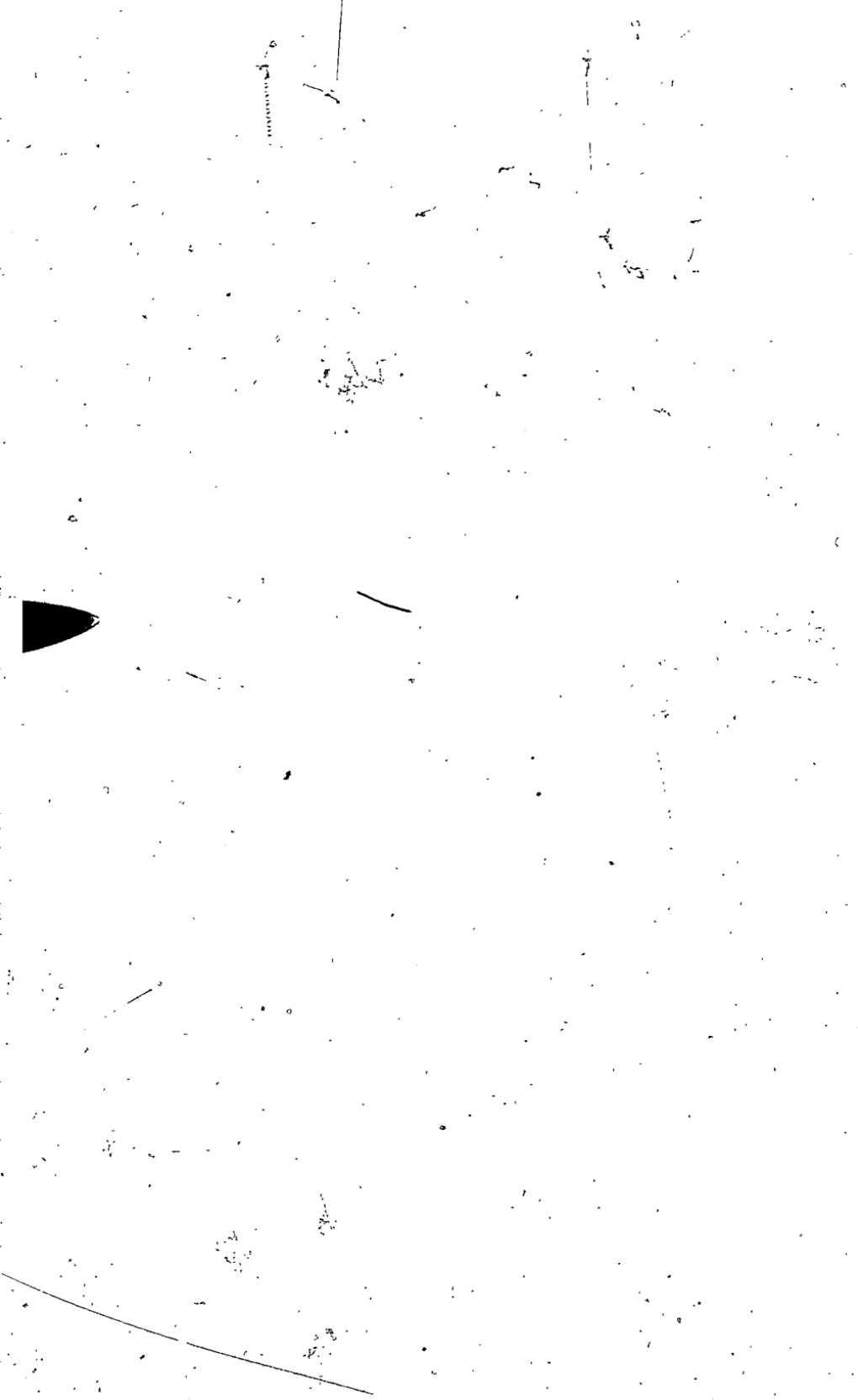
Thomas Donlon



William Swinbank



Odanah Bridge



A Dominion Meteorological Site was established here on December 15th, 1880. Rev. J. M. Wellwood had come to the district in June of that year and homesteaded two miles east and south of town. He set up the instruments on the farm and for a time after the first telegraph was installed, a line ran out to his home. Later, in 1884, he moved to town and the station was placed on the hill southwest of town. Ever since that time recordings have been made here by one of the Wellwood family, Mrs. Wellwood continuing after the death of her husband, and now the youngest daughter, Mrs. Helen Workman does the work, since the retirement of her mother in 1932.

Industries

One of the first industries started here was a Saw Mill, which was built and operated by J. S. Armitage in 1880. Logs were floated down the river from the north in the spring, and there was a steady demand for all the lumber that could be turned out. Mr. Armitage also operated the first Grist Mill as the early settlers were having to go back on the trail, to Palestine, for flour. A Brickyard was started by Mr. S. Fairbairn, and lime for building purposes was prepared by burning the limestone found in the surrounding hills.

Two Lime Kilns, at least, were operated in the sides of the east and south hills. Later it was found easier and cheaper to import lime and these kilns were abandoned. It is said that the brick walls of the first school were built so solidly that after it was burned down the local men could hardly break them to get rid of the unsightly remains.

A Cheese Factory was operated by William Drummond on his farm three miles east of town for some years. Then he moved to town and started a dairy in the south-east part, from which he supplied the town with milk.

A Creamery was also operated for some time by Mr. Hans Neilson where large supplies of butter were made. The first outfit to operate as a pick-up of cream from the farmers, was a large covered wooden tub fastened to a buckboard. An employee drove the team and in the early morning he called on the farmers who poured their cream all into the same tub, to be delivered to the creamery. This building was burned down early in the 1900's and Minnedosa was without a creamery for many years. Now the People's Co-Operative has a well-equipped plant and staff of trucks which make the pick-up in individual cream cans. The cream is tested and pasteurized before being churned. This summer a by-law was passed making compulsory the pasteurization of all milk for delivery to the town, and the Co-Op has installed a plant for this purpose, and collects the milk from the former dairymen, processing it and making the deliveries to the customers. Butter made in the Minnedosa Creamery even in the days of Mr. Neilson has stood high in the contests of the Provincial Dairy Competitions, and it continues to do so. This year (1948) the Co-Op Creamery took 1st and 3rd prizes at the Canadian National Exhibition.

Advertisers in Tribune, 1887: Barrister-Crerer and Myers, A. W. Beynon, A. Stewart; Dr. W. J. Roche; Four Hotels; N. D. Ennis—Real Estate; W. Wigmore—Sewing Machines; J. Robertson—merchant tailor; T. A. Cuddy—Lumber, etc.; Thos. McNutt—M. and N.W. Lands; George Perry—Baker; W. B. McArthur—Gen. merchant; H. Hartford—Dry Goods and Groceries; Humber and Boyd—Hardware; J. D. Gillies—Gen. Store; G. A. Hogarth—Cash Store; J. K. Patton—Drugs and Stationery; Wright and Co.—Groceries.

Agricultural Society. The early settlers had good crops and gardens except when an early frost caught them. In Ontario, where most of the farmers came from, they held Fall Exhibitions, so they decided to follow the same custom here, and as early as 1882 an Agricultural Society was formed. Since that time with the exception of three years, a one or two day Fair has been held. In the early years it took place in the fall, usually October, but in later years it was changed to sometime in the month of July. The Agricultural Society has also been active in promoting better breeding of animals, plowing matches, seed, calf, swine, garden, and sewing clubs.

1892 at the annual meeting of the Minnedosa Agricultural Society the following directors were elected: R. T. Sanderson, John Wake, R. P. Fraser, E. J. Darroch, R. H. Myers, John T. Wilson, Jas. C. Ross, ~~Easmes~~, Pederson, J. H. Hole, and Edward McGill. A. C Sewell was elected auditor.

Stores. As was stated in an earlier section, the first store built on the site of Minnedosa was carried on by H. G. Henderson and then by P. J. McDermott. Jermyn and Gillis had opened one at Tanier's Crossing, and a little later Cuddy and McLaren opened up business.

In 1885, Mr. W. B. St. John came with a group of relatives and other settlers and he started the first photography. Later he built the St. John block where he carried on in the north half, while his son, C. L. had (and still has) his law office in the south half. After Mr. St. John's death, A. R. Henson took over the photography and is continuing to operate.

Banks. For a number of years only private men or companies handled the banking for the settlers. Wallace Ramsay and Company were the first. Alex Stewart also took money into his keeping but not as the settlers planned, as he moved out and took some of their money with him. The Commercial Bank was evidently the first chartered bank but before 1900 the Union Bank was the recognized safety for money as well as for loans. This was managed by Mr. E. O. Dennison who was well respected and whose family grew up here and attended the schools. The last private bank to operate here was under the management of V. H. Pickering, an Englishman who will perhaps be remembered most because of the many hounds which he kept. Since that there have been the Bank of Hamilton, Bank of Commerce, and finally, the Royal Bank which now handles large sums of money, for town and district.

Hotels. One of the early homesteaders speaks of having meals at the C.P.R. hotel which was a tent, and I suppose that many of the lodging places were called "hotels", but the first building which was a licensed hotel was the Saskatchewan House. It was situated on the east side of the main street. Here much business was done, many deals made, and much whiskey drunk. It was here that the first Council was formed. The Brunswick, Queens and Grand Central, all followed but as the years went by each was burned down. Now we have two—The Minnedosa House on the south side and the Tremont, near the C.P.R. station.

Elevators. At first the farmers had to get grain for feed or seed from the Palestine or Grand Valley and if they did not sell what was grown to other settlers for the same purpose they had to draw it to the same place that they had purchased the grain from. This continued until the railroad came in and many long cold trips they had to make in the late fall or winter. After the railroad came, warehouses were built either by private persons or companies, to which the grain was drawn in bags and graded, and then



EARLY PIONEERS—Mr. and Mrs. Alex Cameron and son, R. G. McAree,
Mr. and Mrs. R. C. Boyd and children, Rose family group,
W. G. Sanderson, T. T. Malcolm, R. T. Sanderson.



dumped into bins. Later these warehouses were replaced by elevators where machinery did the work of weighing and carrying the grain to bins and into the freight cars. Farmers also shipped carloads when they had enough. There are now three large elevators here.

Hospital. In 1908 it was decided to build a hospital in Minnedosa and Mr. James McKay was engaged to erect a nine-bed hospital with nursery and operating room. It was called the Lady Minto hospital and has served the town and community since that time. In the later years it has been filled to overflowing and need for a much larger one has been evident. Since the war ended a committee has been working with the Provincial Board of Health to establish a larger unit. With the co-operation of adjacent municipalities a Unit No. 8 has been worked out and in August this year, 1948, a by-law to establish a new hospital with 31 beds has passed by a 96 per cent vote of the ratepayers.

Medical Services. Even Doctors were attracted by the lure of cheap land and in 1878 Dr. Kenning came here and took a homestead on the south and west side of the settlement. He also served in his medical capacity for a time and as his patients were far apart he rode on horseback to visit them. He did not stay very long but Dr. Beauchamp arrived in time to take over his work. Later he also moved away, but in 1884 Dr. W. J. Roche arrived. He remained for many years, serving the community not only as a doctor but also as Federal Member of Parliament for over twenty years. He tells of making a long trip which cost him fourteen dollars in livery bill, to stop a man's nose from bleeding, when all the pay he received was the man's blessing! Often the farmers had to turn out and break the trail in winter so he could reach the sick. Dr. Roche moved to Ottawa late in his term as Minister of Mines and Natural Resources and died there.

In 1895 Dr. J. N. Andrew came here as a young graduate and ever since that has been a faithful "family doctor". After fifty years of service he still lives here and takes a keen interest in Community affairs. In 1942 the town voted to have a municipal doctor and the present man is Dr. H. C. Stevenson, a young Army Veteran.

Telephones. No information seems available as to where the first telephone switch board was installed. However it is said that Taylor Bros., cattle dealers, had a private telephone, first, which connected with the railway telegraph. This gave them quick market quotations as there were neither radios nor daily papers available at that time. This must have been during 1899, as in the minutes of the Council, May 17, 1900, it is recorded that the chairman of the Board of Works was instructed to supervise the erection of poles for the Bell Telephone Company and by June 14th the Minnedosa Tribune reports that there were 33 subscribers. The office was in S. L. Taylor's drug store, and Mr. Taylor and his clerk, George Fairbairn looked after it. Calls were answered from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. but urgent night calls were allowed. Dr. J. N. Andrew had phone No. 6. By 1903 long distance calls were being made but it was not until 1903 that connections were made with nearby towns, or rural phones were installed.

One of the first girls to assist as an operator was Mary Dennison (Mrs. F. Watson of Winnipeg). Two a little later were Clara Lang (Mrs. W. Whaley) and Lizzie Perrett. About 1909 the Bell Telephone Company was taken over in Manitoba by the government and has since been operating as the Manitoba Telephone System.

Electric Light. It seems that during the winter of 1902-03 the town council had been attempting to secure electric power by a contract with E. S. Harrison and Company and in May, 1903 a special meeting was called concerning this. The contract was extended until October and during September poles were being erected. The first generator was installed in the Sash and Door factory owned by Scott Bros. on the east side of the railway and south of the river. It was run by the factory engine but the operators were Addison, an Englishman from Minneapolis and his brother-in-law, Charles Williams. Council again records—Motion of Taylor and Burton—It was decided to have four lights for the town; one at A. E. Key's corner, one at Murphy's Blacksmith Shop, one at the corner of Main and Catherine Avenue, and one at the corner of Main and Minnedosa Avenue. The first lights were turned on, on September 25th. In 1904, Mr. Dave Craig took over from Addison, and Mr. Alf Tennant was hired to run the lights, at \$35.00 per month. Before long there were two more changes in ownership as R. Hamilton bought out Mr. Craig and finally P. J. McDermott bought it from Hamilton. He owned the plant until 1909.

All these years there had been agitation for a dam to be built on the river which would give power for lights and other industries. About 1909, this agitation took form and a company of local men was formed to raise money for the construction of a dam. Snyder Bros. were hired as contractors and work was begun in 1910, and continued in 1912 when the cement work and flumes were placed. A power house with two wheels of 500 horse power and one of 50 horse power was built and in the spring of 1913 water was turned on and light for the whole town was supplied and pronounced "satisfactory and reliable."

Since that time the Manitoba Hydro has connected up with the local power house and supplies most of our light and power, using the local plant as an auxiliary and emergency supply.

On May 1st of this year, a break was discovered in the spillway of the dam and at once the seriousness of the situation was realized. For three days every effort was put forward to save the structure. Trucks and men from the town and miles around worked frantically bolstering the concrete with stones, but the pressure of the water was too great and on the evening of May 4th, the spillway broke and water swept through the town. The three days' respite gave residents along the river a chance to move furnishings which would otherwise have been ruined or greatly damaged. The flash flood lasted only a few hours but it left in its wake great destruction to properties. To date nothing has been done, but many hope to see the dam rebuilt.

LAW AND POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT

Section 5

First Council. In the early days there was no "Town Hall" so an hotel was used as the gathering place for public business.

The "swearing in" of the first council took place in the Saskatchewan House on April 4th, 1882. The town had been laid out into three wards, so there had been a real settlement established. A mayor and six councillors were chosen.



Hon. W. J. Roche



J. D. Gillis



John Crerar



Governor Laird



J. W. Thompson



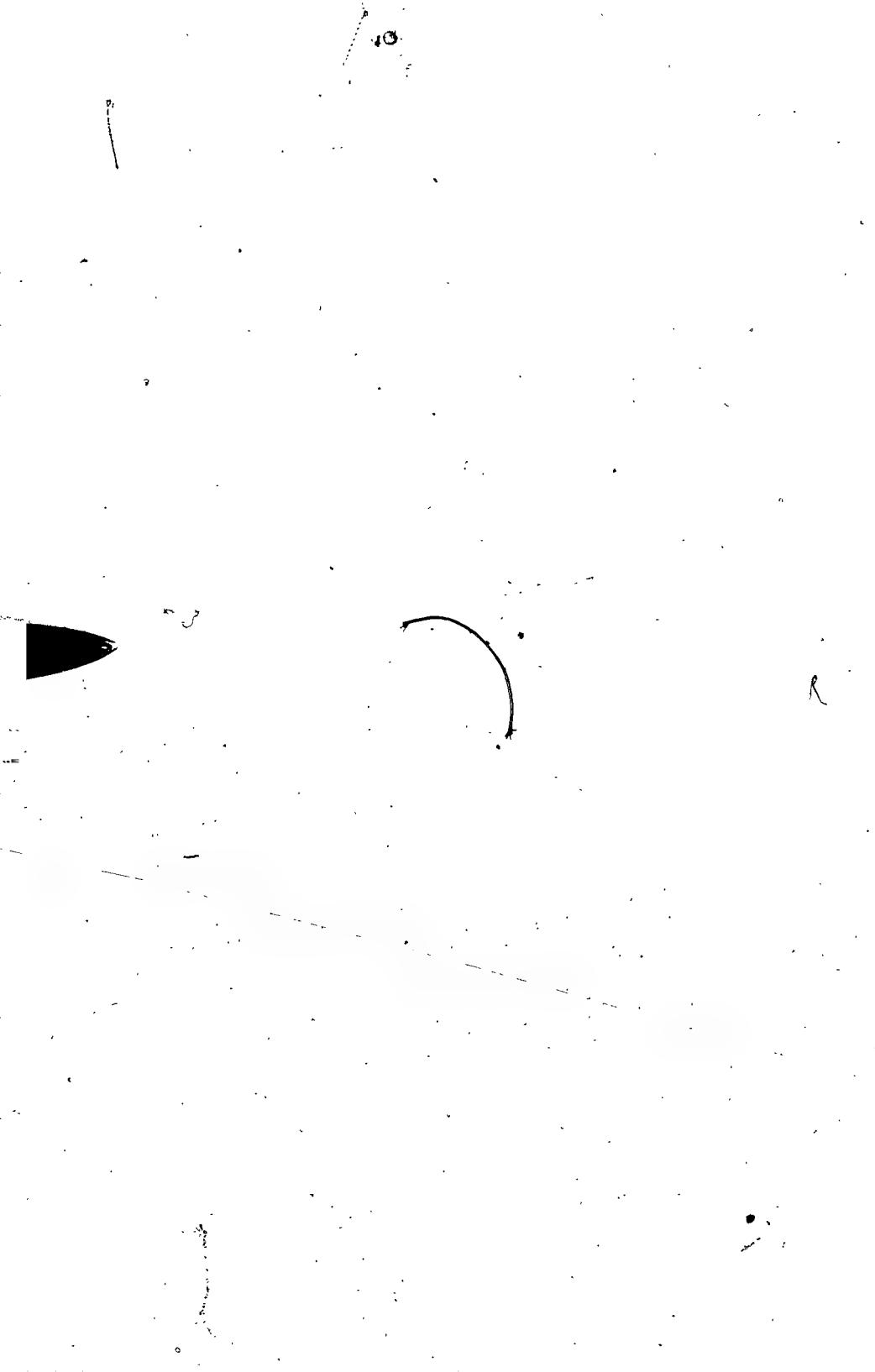
Hon. G. A. Grierson



W. B. Waddell



Hon. Neil Cameron



The first mayor was John Crerar, and the councillors were as follows: Ward 1—Anthony Griffith and Dr. Hunter; Ward 2—B. M. Armitage and E. Sims; Ward 3—R. A. Cowan and P. J. McDermott. H. V. Carter was the secretary-treasurer, and H. V. Morphy was solicitor.

The first assessors were—Thos. Boyd and Andrew Malcolm. Town engineer—J. G. Kirk; constables—H. Lewis and J. Hewey.

On September 12th, 1883, a by-law authorizing the issue of debentures to the amount of \$20,000 was passed. The money to be used for public improvements including a town hall and jail, also to purchase a Right-of-Way and station grounds for the Manitoba and North-Western Railroad.

Tax rate in 1883 for all purposes was six mills. Names of pioneer mayors were—J. Crerar, J. D. Gillis, J. Jermyn and P. J. McDermott. The first town policeman was Big John Cameron.

By 1887 the census showed the population of Minnedosa as five hundred and forty-nine. The Tribune says, "There are only four towns in Manitoba larger than Minnedosa. These four are Winnipeg, Portage la Prairie, Brandon and Emerson."

During the past twenty-five years Dr. E. H. Clark was mayor, but he retired in 1947 and then he and his family decided this year to leave Minnedosa. A real ovation and farewell was tendered them by the citizens of the town and community. The present mayor is Mr. Jack Burgess, a native of the town.

Government. When the first settlers came to the district it was still in the North West Territories and remained so until March 21st, 1881. Governor Laird of Battleford had the oversight of all this part, and in 1878 he came to Tanner's Crossing and interviewed Mr. W. H. Ditch, whom he asked to stand as the representative here in the next Legislative. Some campaigning was done the following year, as far east and north as Hun's Valley, but it seems that no election took place, as there was considerable talk and agitation about extending the boundary of Manitoba to include this area. In 1881 this was done and all that now is in the province to the west was included. The federal district of Marquette to the east was also extended and Hon. (later Senator) Robert Watson of Portage la Prairie was the first member for the enlarged area.

The provincial district of Minnedosa was also established in 1881, and John Crerar was the first representative in the Manitoba Legislature.

Other representatives from Minnedosa have been: Dr. W. J. Roche, who held Marquette seat in the Dominion Legislature for twenty-one years, during part of which time he was Minister of Mines and Natural Resources. John W. Thompson, son of one of the early settlers, Malcolm Thompson, who was a member of the Provincial Legislature from 1911 until his death in 1914. Hon. G. A. Grierson, in the Manitoba House during the Norris Government, and Hon. Neil Cameron, son of the pioneer, Alex Cameron, who was in the Farmers' Party under John Bracken in Manitoba.

County Seat and Court House. Previous to 1908 a sitting of County Court was held once in three months, when Judge Cumberland came and presided. In 1908 the North-West Judicial District was formed and Minnedosa was made the headquarters. The following year a fine courthouse was built, which now houses the jail, courtrooms, clerk's office, and office of good roads. Judge Lindal, the presiding judge makes his home here most of the time.

RELIGIOUS DEVELOPMENT

Section 6

Spiritual workers were never far behind the settlers in entering new countries. Rev. George McDougall and Rev. James Robertson had moved westward in the early days, ministering to the needs of the furtraders and the Indians, as far as the Rocky Mountains.

The Presbyterian Church. In May, 1878, Rev. Alex Smith came from the east and homesteaded in the south of the Cameron district. That summer he started Presbyterian services by preaching from a packing box pulpit in the open air, near where the Tremont hotel now stands. His audience was mainly homesteaders travelling through as there were only two white families in the Valley. His parish included Rapid City, Newdale, Cadurcis, Cameron and Minnedosa.

The first marriage he performed was that of the late Angus Grant and Miss Katheryn McTavish. In 1880, Rev. J. M. Wellwood took over his work and he preached in the tent store of Mr. P. J. McDermott and then in the Hall built by Smith and Smyth where the Consumers' Co-Op now stands, until 1882 when the first church was built on the hill south-west of town. This church was burned down and in 1908 Knox Church was built on Main street.

Among the early workers were Dr. and Mrs. Kenning, Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Steel, Mr. and Mrs. George Black, Mr. and Mrs. James Brown, Mr. Andrew Malcolm, Mr. Cowan and Mr. and Mrs. R. G. McAree.

Methodist Church. The work of the Methodist church was begun here by Mrs. John Norquay who held the first Sunday school in her home during the year 1878. Miss Fanny Ditch had come that year with her parents from the east and she assisted Mrs. Norquay in the work. Occasionally a preaching service was held by Rev. Thos. Lawson who was stationed at Salisbury, near where Neepawa now is, and who had all the settlement of the west to cover. Early in 1879, Mr. Lawson started regular services here, every two weeks but not until 1881 was there a resident minister. At that time Rev. T. B. Wilson came and the first parsonage was built. The first church was not built until 1884 during the ministry of Rev. A. J. Barltrop. Among the first officers were Messrs. T. D. Harrison, Thos. Boyd, J. S. Armitage, Henry Rose and George McKinney.

For some time after the Union of Methodists and Presbyterians in Canada both churches continued to serve the people, but about 1928 the Methodist church was sold to the Masonic Order and the congregations have since that time worshipped together in Knox church.

Church of England. The first services of the Anglican church in Minnedosa were held by a young clergyman named Sargeant in 1881. He lived at Rapid City and only came here occasionally. In 1882 Rev. Mark Jukes took up a homestead on the S.W. ¼ of Sec. 19, Tp. 14, R. 18 and began a regular service. In 1885 a neat frame church was erected on the site where the present stone church now stands and soon after, the Rectory also was built. Rev. Jukes served for a number of years and then in 1889 was followed by Rev. E. A. Gill who was loved, and is still remembered fondly by his many parishioners.

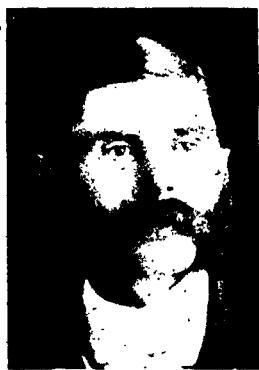
Among the early workers and officers in the church were Mr. and Mrs. John Wake, the Pearson brothers and sisters, General Dyer and Mr. and Mrs. E. O. Denison. One of the first wardens of St. Mark's Anglican church was Sir Harry Lynch-Blosse.



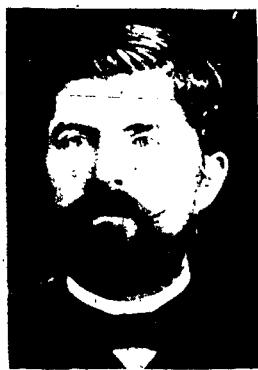
Rev. Alex Smith



Rev. J. M. Wellwood



Rev. T. B. Wilson



Rev. Thomas Lawson



Rev. Mark Jukes



Rev. E. A. Gill



Baptist Church. The Baptist church was organized in the home of Mr. and Mrs. S. J. Patterson in June, 1897. They built the church now used by the Presbyterians, and it was opened in July, free of debt. Dr. Whidden of Brandon College and Rev. F. W. Avanché were the speakers.

Leading workers were Mr. and Mrs. Patterson, Mr. and Mrs. J. Menzies, Mesdames Dickson, Livingstone, and Law.

The Church of the Disciples was quite active here during the first and second decade, as they had an attractive church building. Mr. E. J. Darroch and his sister were leaders, but when they moved away the building was sold and used as a Sunday school room by the Methodists, then as an overflow school room, and later as a dwelling.

Other denominations and sects held services through the years. One of these was the **Plymouth Brethren**, whose leaders were John and H. S. Taylor, Chas. Macey, and J. R. Borthistle.

The Salvation Army held regular services also for a time about 1900, and the Cooneyites or Go-Preachers came in about 1905 or 1906 and got quite a following.

A Roman Catholic Church was built in 1908 and a priest came over from Brandon to lead services. As the town grew and many new Canadians moved in they decided to build a **Greek Catholic Church**, in 1945.

Section 7

EDUCATION

Mr. and Mrs. John Norquay had a family of small children, and being of a progressive nature they wished them to have an education, so offered their home to be used as the first school room. Miss Murchison was the teacher and for some time regular classes were carried on. Then the Norquays moved away and the classes were transferred to a log house situated just east of Main street behind the present "Taylor Building" where the Dry Cleaner's is now. Again they were moved to the west side on Minnedosa Avenue opposite the present Court House. Finally in 1883 the first school was built on the side of the hill to the south-west of town.

The following is the Roll of Honor for 1885: Standard 4—1st Lawrence Cockburn, 2nd Laura Halstead, 3rd Luella Rook, May Hilliard and Kate McDonald (equal).

Standard 3—1st. Bert Halstead, 2nd. Kate Fletcher, 3rd. Willie Rogers.

Standard 2—1st. Maud Rogers, 2nd. Mary Armitage, 3rd. Leslie Armitage.

Standard 1—(sr.) 1st. James McLean, 2nd. Maggie Young, 3rd. Maggie Thompson.

Standard 1—(jr.) 1st. Harvey Armitage and Gertie Fairbairn (equal), 2nd. Franklin Rook, 3rd. Emma Barker.

In 1897 this school was condemned as unsafe. The walls, made of brick, were bulging and were reinforced by an iron rod which ran from side to side. Classes were moved to the town hall until a four roomed two storey school was built on Main Street South, which served (with two overflow rooms nearby) until 1909 when Minnedosa saw the need of greater expansion in educational facilities. A "North" school was built, matriculation courses were introduced and the Collegiate was begun in it. A grade 1 and 2 room was opened in the North School also in order that small children need not cross the railway tracks or river. The South School was burned down in 1922 replaced by a one storey building with five classrooms and a nurse's

room. This has five teachers and serves grades 1 to 6 with one hundred and eighty pupils enrolled, and the North School, besides a grade 1 and 2 teacher, has a staff of six teachers for Junior and High School and an enrollment of one hundred and sixty five pupils.

Three of the earlier teachers after Miss Murchison were Miss Léslie, Mr. Jas. Campbell, and Miss Montgomery. In 1887 Mr. G. A. Grierson was principal and Mr. A. J. Baker was assistant teacher. Mr. Grierson remained for a number of years and was a fine inspiration to those who studied under him. The present principal, Mr. J. A. Crossley, has been here for over thirty years and he also has helped the youth of our town in the right way.

Many pupils have graduated from the schools here and taken their places in the world—doctors, druggists, merchants and railroaders. Outstanding are the achievements of two, from pioneer homes. One is W. J. Rose, son of Henry Rose, farmer. He graduated from our High school when only fourteen years old, took his B.A. at Wesley College in Winnipeg, and the same year he won the Rhodes scholarship for Manitoba. Since that he took his Ph. D at Cracow University in Poland, and is Professor of Eastern Slavonic and European Languages in London University, England, since 1938. Dr. Rose is also the author of several books on Poland.

The other graduate whom we think of is Dr. Grace Stewart, daughter of Mr. John Stewart, farmer. After graduating here Dr. Stewart took her degree in Science at Edmonton College, Alberta. Later she studied for her Ph.D. in Geology, and has taught for a number of years in Columbus, Ohio. During World War Two she returned to Canada and did research work for the Dominion government. She is also the author of a book on geology. Others who graduated here and went out to serve the public were Ralph Pearson, who was Deputy Provincial Treasurer of Manitoba for many years. Jim Wright, who has written several books on the Doukhobor of Canada, and Woodrow St. John who is Secretary of the Canadian Dairy Commission.

NEWSPAPERS

Section 8

The town was not long started before an enterprising man realized that a newspaper would be welcomed and might be a source of revenue for himself. Mr. Gibbons, therefore, established The Minnedosa Tribune in May, 1883, and it has been published ever since. It seems that Gibbons was not one to put down roots, as he sold out in 1884 to Mr. David Cannon, who carried on as owner and editor for thirty-five years. As an old man he was tendered a banquet and the thanks of the community for his contribution to the building up of the town. One of his employees, Mr. Adam Crossley, with Mr. G. T. Turley; purchased the paper in 1919, but two years later Turley turned his shares over to Crossley, who carried on until 1932. At that time, R. J. Sanderson bought out Mr. Crossley and has been carrying on since then. Besides being one of the oldest weekly newspapers in Manitoba it has a large circulation—2400 subscribers at present and for three years—1941, 1944, and 1947—since Mr. Sanderson took over, The Minnedosa Tribune has been the winner of the Grain and Milling Trophy for the best all-round weekly in the province.

Another paper, the Mercury, was published for a time here by J. Bremner and later by John McQuarrie, but it did not seem to take root as The Tribune did and the office was closed.



Log school remodelled to dwelling, Principal G. A. Grierson, early-day schools



SOCIAL AND FRATERNAL

Section 9

November 11, 1910, was a red letter day for the Women of Minnedosa and District for that was the day the Home Economic Society was organized which is now known as the **Women's Institute**. Mrs. Andrew Boyd, a pioneer, was elected president. Our chartered members were: Mrs. James Gugin, Mrs. David Cannon, Mrs. J. R. Borthistle, Mrs. H. Dyer, Miss M. Ewens, Miss Harrison, Mrs. C. Meadows, Miss A. Lamont, and Mrs. R. Woodcock.

The second year Mrs. Cooper was elected president. She also served as a member of the first Advisory Board of Manitoba. Much was accomplished during her five years of office. The most outstanding was the opening of the first rest-room in Minnedosa, with the co-operation and financial help of the town and adjoining Municipalities of Minto, and Odanah. The rest-room has been managed by the Women's Institute for thirty-one years, and during the depression years large sums of money were raised toward its upkeep.

Our programmes cover a wide field: such as Immigration, Herbs, Candy Making, Dower Law, Our Kitchen, Book Reviews, Debates, Contests, and Social Evenings to entertain our husbands and friends. During 1936 to 1939, we sponsored a Drama Festival under the Manitoba Drama League, which was most successful. The Women's Institute has donated silver cups and badges, to be competed for each year. Mrs. A. R. Henson also donated a cup and badge. Much of the success of the festivals was due to the efforts of Mrs. Henson.

1940, found our young people serving their country, so the Drama Festival was given up for the duration of the war.

The Women's Institute formed a hospital aid in 1915, taking over the care of a ward in the hospital known as the Country Women's Ward. When the hospital needed fruit and vegetables, Mrs. David Cannon had members canvas for donations, while she herself drove from farm to farm over bad roads and brought into the hospital a sleigh load of fruit and vegetables.

We assisted in organizing Boys' and Girls' clubs and Extension Service courses for senior girls, covering dress-making, millinery, home management, nutritions, handicraft and tailoring.

We put on Baby Clinics from 1920 to 1932, paying a doctor and other expenses connected with the Clinic, an average of \$40.00 a year. During the First World War we worked for the Red Cross and donated money to all patriotic funds including the Hospital Ship and Soldier Relief. During the second war we all worked in Red Cross Units. The Institute sent hundreds of pounds of second hand clothing to "Victory Bundles" and also made special donations of blankets and baby outfits to our local Red Cross.

In 1935 we celebrated our twenty-fifth anniversary by a banquet and programme which was attended by about two hundred members, and guests. Mr. N. C. McKay from the Extension Service was the guest speaker. He congratulated Minnedosa on having one of the largest organizations in the province and sponsoring one of the most extensive programmes of any in the province.

Outstanding through the years there have been many women who gave the best they had to the W.I. work, but only one of the charter members has been a continuous member up to the present time. That one is Mrs. Robert

Woodcock. She has served in almost every office, and was president for two terms covering at least ten years.

Lodges. The most active fraternal orders in the early days of Minnedosa were the Masons, the Loyal Orange Lodge, and the Oddfellows. The Royal Templars of Temperance had an order here for a while, also the Canadian Order of Foresters and the Prince of Wales No. 14.

The Masons were organized in 1880 with Dr. Kenning as Director of Ceremonies. They had twelve other men as charter members, and held their first meetings in the home of Mr. R. A. Cowan, but later secured a hall in W. E. Roche's block on Main Street. After 1925, they bought the former Methodist church where they carry on. A ladies' Order of Eastern Star has been working for many years also.

In 1881 the Loyal Orange Lodge was organized with twenty-one charter members. They have built their own hall where they hold their meetings, and which is rented also for public gatherings and dances.

The I.O.O.F. No. 10 was started here in 1884 with Mr. Arthur Shaw as their noble grand. They had fifteen charter members. The Rebekahs have been quite a strong organization also, through the years.

New clubs have been organized in later years. Among the men are the Elks lodge, the Rotary club, the Junior Chamber of Commerce, and the Canadian Legion, all of which take an interest in civic improvement and the welfare of the town. The trainmen also have two Brotherhoods. The Women's Institute, Ladies' Auxiliary to the Legion, and the 18th Armoured Car Auxiliary are active, as well as a Hospital Aid, and L.O.B.A. lodge, and a group of trainmen's wives.

OTHER CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

Section 10

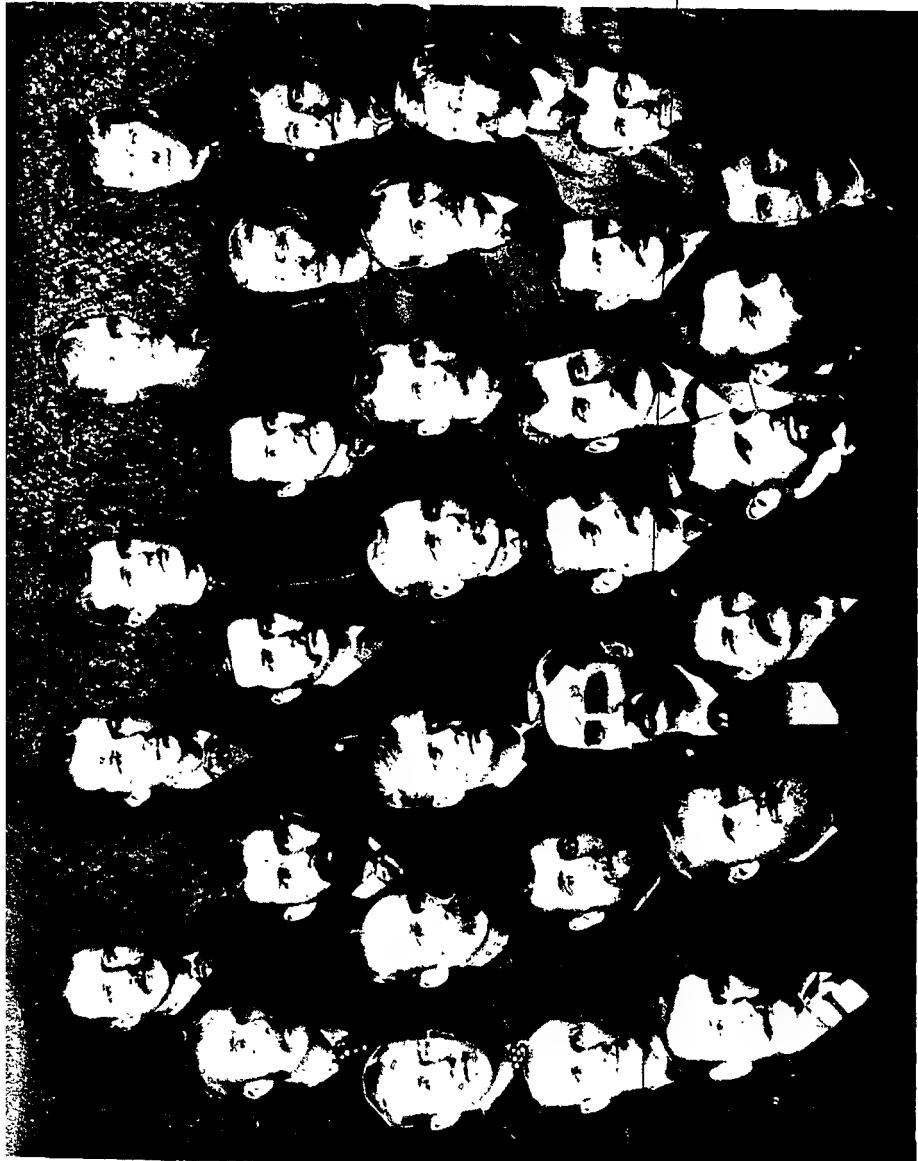
From the time that the land agent, Mr. Jeffreys, organized the first picnic there was a desire recognized for the Arts and Music side of life. There was always a program of speeches and music during the picnic afternoon. These gatherings helped dispell the loneliness of pioneer life, as did the dances which were held in the long winter evenings. Violins supplied the music.

With the coming of the St. John family musical talent was always on hand. Mrs. W. B. St. John was a music teacher and with her daughter, Mrs. St. John-Baker, held musical evenings and recitals which many enjoyed. Mrs. E. O. Dennison also entertained many who enjoyed music both vocal and instrumental. Outside concert talent came in, too, and was well received.

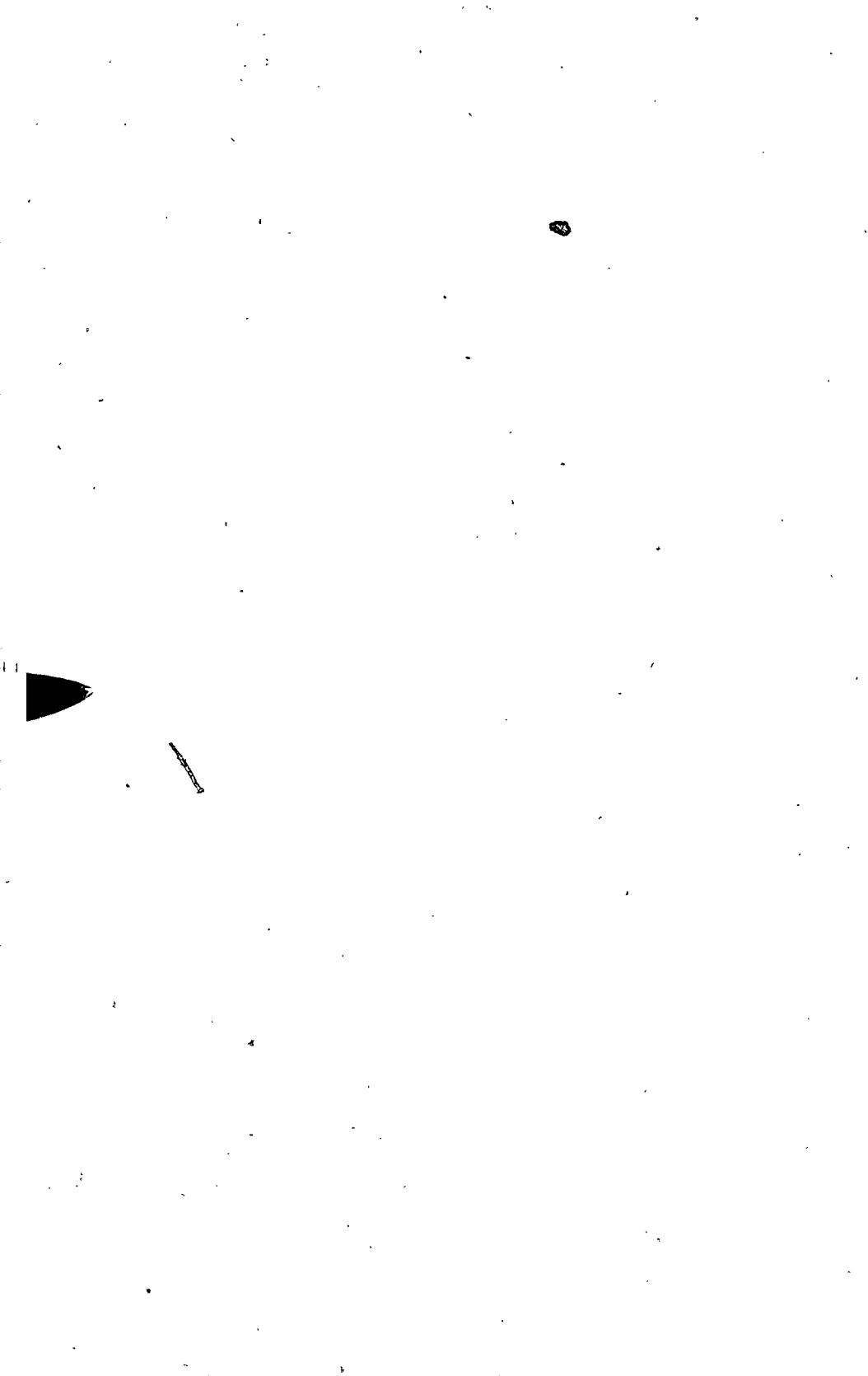
Literary societies were formed, both in town and in the surrounding district, and debates were held. These stimulated social times as well as being educational. In 1903 a reading room was opened in town. Shakespeare and Burns clubs were formed. Libraries, both public and private, have been available for use. The Women's Institute has largely sponsored these and has now over two hundred books on hand.

In the later years the fine arts have not seemed as outstanding as earlier, perhaps because of the radio, and changed ways of living. People do not seem to take the same time to cultivate home music or literary tastes as they did.

Perhaps the event of motion pictures had its influence too. Prior to 1910 for some time Mr. George Farncombe operated a movie in the south side of



ODDFELLOWS—Upper row—Chas. May, Jos. Burgess, Geo. Hamilton, Thos. Donaldson, Second row—Duncan Mc-Millan, A. W. Shaw, R. H. Myers, J. W. Thompson, Geo. Gibson, Thos. Gray. Third row—Alex. May, Pete Stewart, Ed. Nichol, John Hanna, Duncan Buchanan, John I. McDonald, Hugh Steele. Fourth row—R. B. Rook, W. A. Ayearst, Dr. Roche, Duncan Fletcher, John McQuarrie, Tom Jackson. Fifth row—James Proven, J. D. Gillis, Hugh Doole, Rev. I. Todd, E. J. Darroch, Chas. Scovall.



the Pearson, or Setter block. Then he built the first theatre near the river and for some time it was operated by P. Butterworth. It was called the "Lyric" and was bought in 1929 by L. Asper. Burned in 1941, it has been rebuilt and is now an up to date air-conditioned theatre.

MILITARY ACTION

Section 11

Riel Rebellion—1885. A contingent of volunteers from Minnedosa was organized early in the Riel Rebellion and left here on April 10th, 1885, under the leadership of Captain McIntosh. A special train took them to Winnipeg. A home guard was also organized and were at the station with friends and relatives to give the company a royal send-off. In Winnipeg they joined Captain Smith's battalion and were taken west to Gleichen, or Crowfoot Crossing, near the home of Crowfoot, and the chief of the Blackfoot Indians. Here they were left to "repress any undue exuberance" of the young braves, whose leader had promised loyalty to the English, and kept his word.

Early in May the entire company was sent to Calgary from where they marched to Edmonton through mud and sloughs so deep that the wagons were up to the hubs in mud and the men had to pull them out with ropes. Arriving there on the last of May they remained for six weeks and then joined a regiment at Fort Pitt from which place they were sent to escort twenty-two of the more dangerous of Big Bear's band to Battleford Gaol. From there they marched across country to Swift Current. The country was level and so dry that they had to carry wood and water with them. On one stretch the men were rationed to one cup of water per man. From Swift Current the men were sent to Winnipeg by train and arrived home on August 24th.

Boer War. It has been difficult to get a clear picture of the enlistments during the Boer War. Since no local unit was formed the boys enlisted one by one in Winnipeg regiments. We do know, however, the names of some who went overseas, though most of them were from the country round about. Among those are Henry Munro of Crocus district, Harry Cassidy of Bethany, Melvin McKinney of Clanwilliam, Jack McGilvary, William Dyer, Austin Patton, and one of Rev. Todd's sons of Minnedosa. Several English lads who served in the war came out to our district after it was over. One of these was H. Harmer, batman to General Baden-Powell, who was for many years the caretaker of our hospital. At the close of the war a great bonfire was lit, parades were organized, and general rejoicing was evident.

World War 1. As soon as the call went out for volunteers in the first week of August, 1914, many men from many nationalities answered and Major H. M. Dyer who was then head of the 12th Manitoba Dragoons, gathered a unit of 59 men and left on August 15th for Valcartier, Quebec. The train left the station here with cheering men on board, but a platform of sorrowful relatives and friends behind. A week later 15 more men left here. Major Dyer kept our boys together and went overseas with them in the 5th Battalion. He was loved by them all and became "Daddy" Dyer to them, soon after action began.

Rev. G. A. Wells (Anglican) soon bade farewell to his friends here and enlisted as Chaplain in the Fort Garry Horse Regiment at Winnipeg, serving overseas throughout the war. When he returned he was appointed a Bishop of his church.

During the winter of 1914-15 men trained here in the Armoury which had just been built the previous year. They entered the 45th Battalion and those who trained in 1916 entered the 226th Battalion. Each summer they went to camp Sewell (now Shilo) for further training.

It is hard to secure the correct number of men that enlisted from Minnedosa, as different lists include different areas. However, on the Honor Roll now in the post office, there are about 300 names—50 of whom made the Supreme Sacrifice. There are more names on the Cenotaph erected later as a Memorial. Four girls went overseas as Nursing Sisters.

November 11th, 1918 was a glad day for all when news came that the war had ceased. C.P.R. whistles and the town hall bell announced the fact and a big parade of people was soon on the streets. Bonfires blazed at night and happiness, tempered with sorrow, reigned.

The return of the men was a slow job but in May 1919 the town and district tendered a banquet to 180 men and relatives in the Armory.

Major H. M. Dyer was in charge of the 12th Manitoba Dragoons when World War One opened and on August 18th, 1914 he left Winnipeg as second in command of the 5th Battalion. Later he was raised to Colonel and then to Brigadier-General. The story is told that while seriously wounded and in hospital a noted doctor passed his bed and on the side he remarked that "that man was about gone". Col. Dyer overheard the remark and raising his head he said, "I don't know who you are but I'm a Canadian. Your a liar and be damned to you. I'll get out of here and see you die before I do." He did!

General Dyer returned home safely and lived until the age of seventy-eight. He died here on Christmas Day 1938.

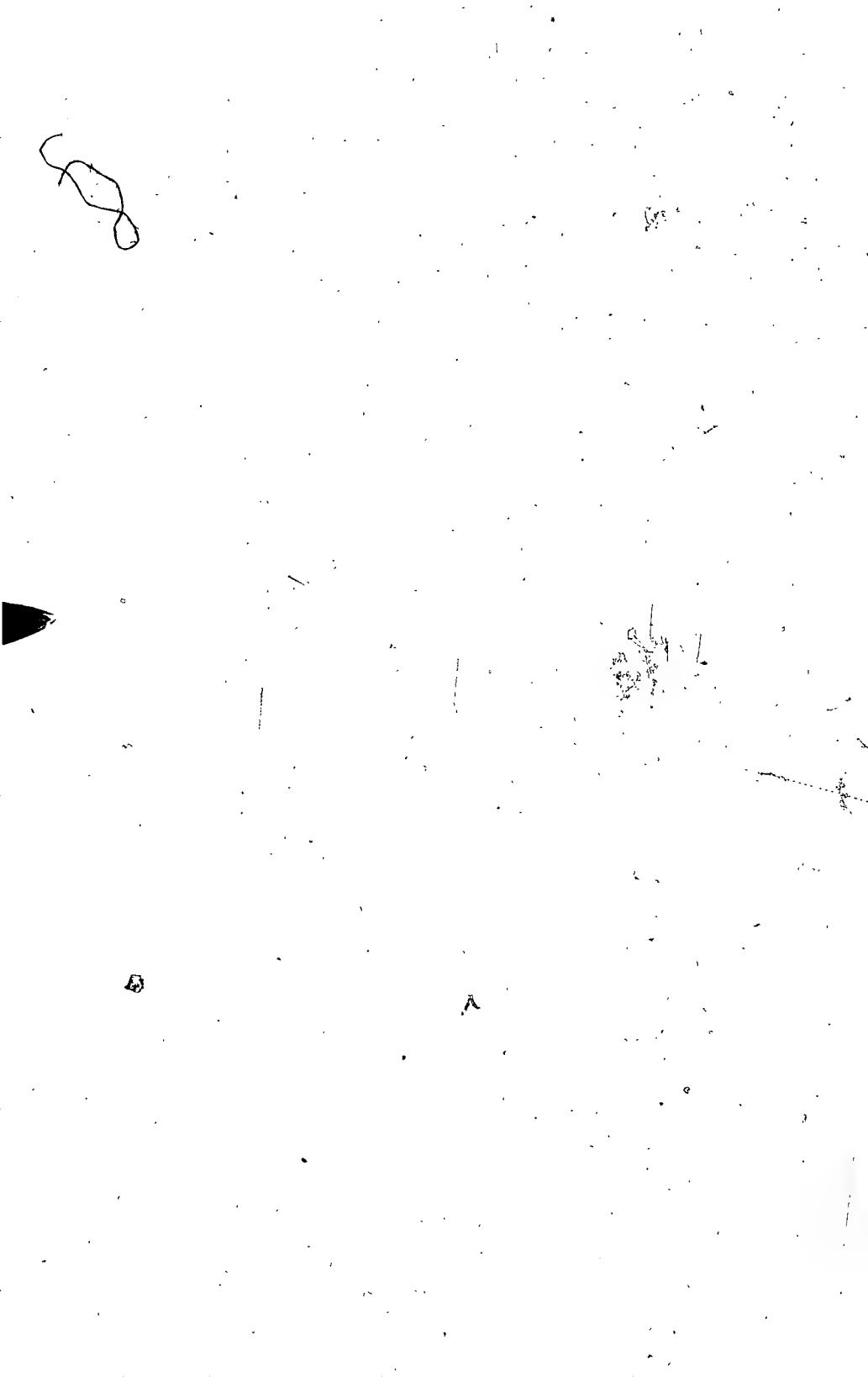
Red Cross. As soon as our first boys enlisted women were alert to see how they could help. Mrs. Jacobs called on Mrs. William Drummond and they organized a group of women who bought yarn and made helmets and other comforts for the boys before they left Canada.

Then the Red Cross organized on May 12th, 1915 and sent an average of \$100.00 per month to Winnipeg up to December, 1915. Besides this the women sent 28 boxes and bales of supplies and dozens of personal boxes of clothing and Christmas cheer to the soldiers overseas. The officers were Mrs. R. T. Butchart, president; Mrs. F. Tew, secretary; and Mrs. C. C. King, treasurer. In 1916 the efforts were increased both in raising money and in knitting and sewing. Over \$5000 was sent in; a young women's auxiliary was formed and country branches were organized. 1917 was the biggest year when \$7812.00 was raised besides much hand work done. The final report given in February, 1919, showed that a total of \$17,261 had been raised for all funds, including the Red Cross Belgian Relief, St. John's Ambulance, I.O.D.E., Y.M.C.A., etc.

World War II. Our town and immediate community left little to be required of them in their efforts "for King and Country." On the roll of enlistments there are 400 names, 31 of these being young women. Every department of the services was represented and 16 young men paid the Supreme Sacrifice, while several were P.O.W. and a number were severely wounded. At the outbreak of war Major Robin Harrison was placed in command of the armories here and was prominent throughout the years in encouraging enlistment among the young men. In 1940 a Veteran's Home Guard was organized and took regular practice. Also a Women's Auxiliary



BRIG. GEN. H. M. DYER



was set up and 40 girls trained locally in motor mechanics, telegraphy and first aid. The first three girls enlisted for active service on April 4th, 1942. They were Thelma Thompson, Josephine (Harrison) Jackson, and Bessie Brown.

In 1942 the school boys were formed into No. 234 Air Cadet Squadron, with R. T. McDonald as leader, and spent a period at No. 12 S.F.T.S. in Brandon.

In other activities such as Salvage, War Saving Stamps, Overseas Relief, Victory Loans and all Red Cross work, the citizens had a busy time.

The Women's Auxiliary to the local branch of the Canadian Legion made a specialty of sending food parcels to the boys, and collecting fur for jackets, besides raising money for their funds. The Legion hall was opened as a hostel for service men and was extensively used.

When the W.P.T.B. was formed, liaison women were appointed from the clubs, etc., and volunteers were always busy on hand to help give out the ration books.

At first the Boy Scouts tried to collect salvage, but they were soon overwhelmed by the job, and the council set up a Salvage Corporation with Mr. R. Preston as convener. All kinds of salvage were collected and at one time 500 tons was shipped.

The Women's organizations collected used clothing for Russian and Greek Relief, also the Women's Institute specialized in Victory Bundles for Britain and tons of used clothing, blankets and quilts were sent to headquarters. At one time \$350.00 cash was collected for the Greek Relief Fund.

Our Red Cross efforts were worthy of note. The sum of \$58,828.00 was raised by the town and surrounding school districts, while nearly 30,000 articles of clothing (knitted, sewn, and quilted) were made by the women in their homes or at the Red Cross Centre in the town hall.

The school children, alone bought several thousand dollars of War Saving Stamps, and each War Loan was over subscribed. Over \$2,000,000 in Bonds were bought.

The Red Cross committees of the Minnedosa district raised \$58,828.72 during World War II, by donations, entertainment, dances, etc. It was reorganized in October, 1939, and carried on until 1945. Besides the money sent to headquarters, the women made or donated clothing of every sort to the extent of 7576 knitted articles, 10,381 sewn articles, 7323 donated articles, 2359 quilts, 292 pillows, 75 layettes. Also dozens of ditty bags and a continual stream of food parcels.

RECREATION

Section 12

The abundant spirits of vigorous men such as pioneers were bound to be expressed in sports and contests. At the annual picnics there were hammer throwing, horse-shoe, ball games, etc., and very soon teams were formed for baseball, football, la crosse, cricket, curling and bowling. In the winter evenings, hours were often spent in dancing and cards.

Football was organized in 1879 and some of the early players were—J. Tanner, J. Jermyn, J. D. Gillis, P. J. McDermott, J. S. Armitage, H. McDonald and A. Griffith. After 1903 it became a main sport and in 1905 the Minne-

dosa team won the semi-finals for Manitoba, against the Shamrocks, and in 1906 they became Manitoba champions by defeating the Winnipeg Uniteds.

When the Logan Bros. came in they gave a great impetus to the game of baseball which was being played. Mr. Humber was the moving spirit at first and two other enthusiasts were W. Smith and C. Murdock.

By 1885 La Crosse was a favorite game and required great staying powers as the game would last two or three hours. There was great rivalry between Rapid City and Minnedosa, and chartered trains would carry the whole company of sports to the games. Mr. W. B. St. John was captain for a number of years and in 1890 they won the championship of the North-West district. Names of the champions in 1890 were:

| | | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|---------------|
| W. B. St. John | T. Logan. | Fred St. John. | B. St. John. |
| Herb Stewart. | Dr. Sherran. | John McQuarrie. | G. W. Beynon. |
| R. H. Myers. | W. A. Smith. | J. Manley. | Arthur Baker. |
| George Erskine. | E. O. Dennison. | | |

In winter the **Curlers** had their day, playing first on the ice on the river and when the skating and curling rink was built in 1894 they had two sheets of ice. **Hockey** did not become common until 1906 but gained favor in 1912, when the team stood well up in the league. **Cricket** was played in the early days but later the game died out to a great extent. In 1905 lawn tennis was organized and a set of courts was made. For some years regular tournaments were held locally and also with other towns. Many of the early settlers were good shots with the rifle and a **Rifle Association** was formed. Mr. S. Fairbairn was a crack shot, and challenges with him were common, in which he always won. One or two years a team went to England to take part in the Bisley meet. A **Bicycle Club** also was formed and "meets" were held.

Lawn Bowling was organized in 1907 with Mr. William Drummond 1st. president. The first green was opened next summer. This club has continued successfully for the longest time of any bowling club in Manitoba, and Mr. J. Traquair, one of the charter members is the only continuous bowler left in the province. In 1917 this club won the greatest number of trophies that has ever been won by a club in Manitoba. Mr. Walter Mann, a present member, was secretary-treasurer for nearly 25 years.

Section 13

FOLK LORE

Cemetery. The land on which the cemetery is situated, was owned by John Tanner, but after 1881 it was acquired by Mr. J. S. Armitage. Mr. Armitage planned to lay it out in town lots, but during the depression years following the boom of 1893, it reverted to the town by tax sales. Evidently some lots were bought and held by Mr. Brandon Beddome, Sr., as he made a gift of one lot to Mr. and Mrs. Henry Rose, as a wedding present when they were married in October, 1884. On the north slope of the hill when excavating for graves, some bones, tools and Indian beadwork were unearthed, which lead the settlers to believe there had been an Indian burial ground there at one time..



Moses Stewart



S. L. Taylor



R. T. Butchart



Harvey Armitage and Child,
J. S. Armitage, Thomas Boyd



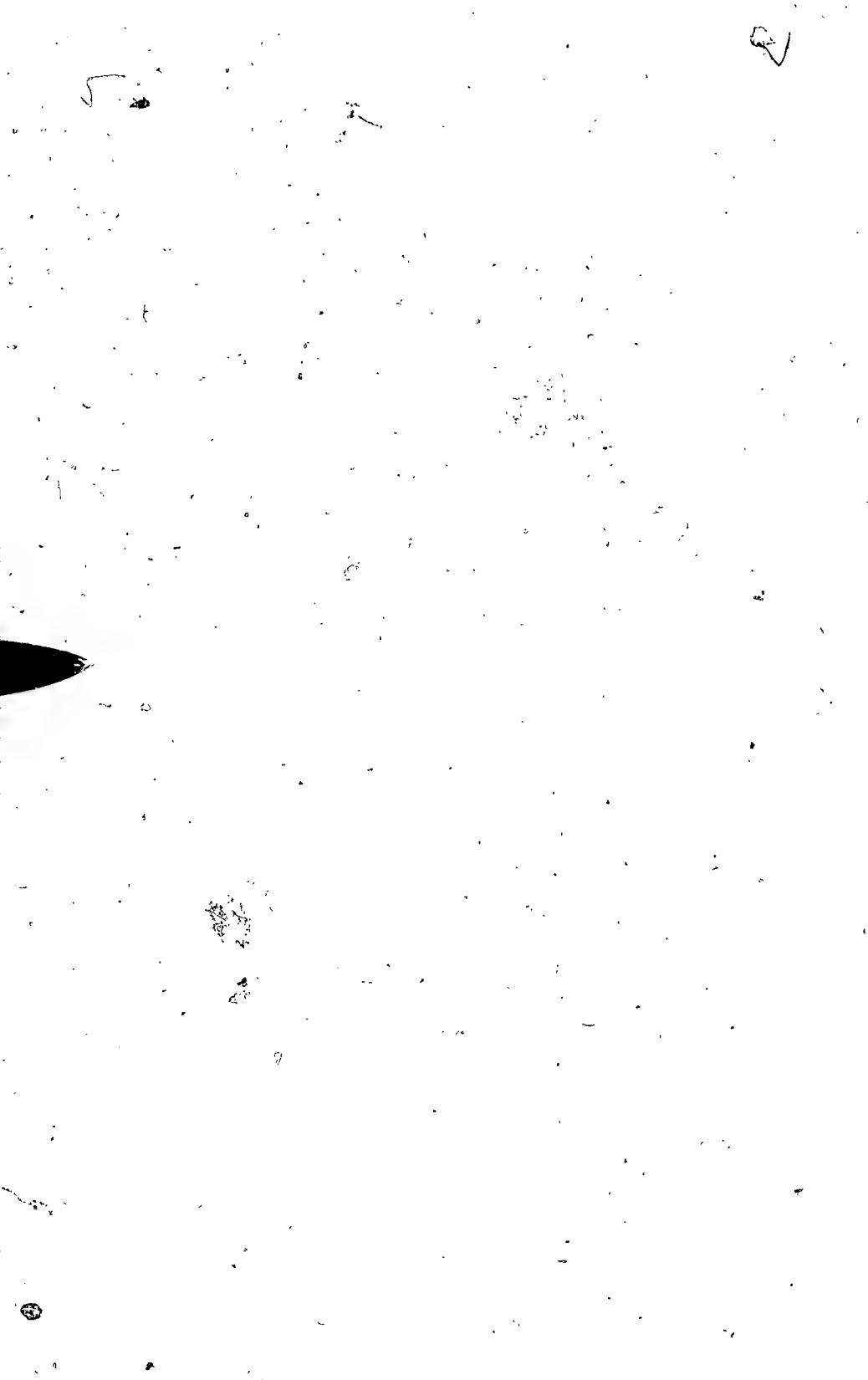
S. J. Patterson



John Taylor



Sid Fairbairn



Picnic. The agent at the Land Titles Office (which was first built at the foot of Odanah Pass) was a very fine man named Jeffrey, who studied the best interests of the new settlers, and tried to build up a spirit of friendship and goodwill among them. One of his plans was to have a large picnic in the fall of 1879, to which all the settlers were invited and asked to bring lunch. This proved a great success and the people for miles around gathered early in the day to visit and compete with each other in games. The bachelors came in their best clothes: one man (Francis Rose) having ironed his white shirt with the head of an axe since no flat irons were available. The contribution of this same chap to the feast was a prairie chicken pie, as wild game was very plentiful. Squash pies and sandwiches made with wild fowl were also on the menu. Wild hops grew in great abundance in the valley and from these the women made yeast which they used for making the most delicious bread.

That picnic was such a success that it was decided to make it an annual event for years to come. In 1881 Governor Laird of the N.W. Territories attended and gave an address to the settlers.

Stories. Mrs. Margaret Brown, a pioneer wife who came with her husband from Ontario in September, 1878 tells how the Indians coveted the white bread she made. Mr. Brown's homestead was on the direct road from Minnedosa to the Rolling River Reserve, and one day when she had made a fresh batch of bread and put it to cool, an Indian stepped inside the door and demanded that she give him some.

It was all she had to feed her family so she shook her head and said "No". The Indian threatened with a knife but she persisted that she had no more flour for her children and finally drove him away. Another woman was making biscuits when some Indians came by and asked for some. She was so frightened that she gave them nearly all she had before they went away.

Attitude of Indians During Riel Rebellion. Another old timer tells that at one of the stopping houses the mistress had always shown a dislike to the Indians, but her cook had been kind to them and helped any who needed help. When the Indians were restless during the Riel Rebellion a squaw came to the Stopping House and would have killed the mistress but the cook intervened and begged her to go away and leave them alone. Because of her former kindness the Indian left peaceably without doing any harm.

Mr. Angus Grant came to Winnipeg by Red River boat in 1876 and worked on survey at Kenora during the summer but returned to Ontario until September, 1877, when he again came out, decided to farm, and purchased some necessary articles.

The bill was as follows:

September 8, 1877.

1 Yoke of Cattle, 1 Cart and Harness, 1 Water Bucket, 1 frying

pan—\$90.00.

1 Tin Pail, 2 Knives and Forks—\$2.25.

2 Tin Plates, 2 Tin Cups—\$1.75. Total—\$94.00.

1 Buffalo Robe—\$1.50, 1 Pair Deer Mocasins—.75.

4 lbs. Tea, 1 Tin Cup. Rec'd payment.

John McLatchie.

"I then started for Portage, spending five days on the way. There I met Jack McGilvray, John McCormick, Chas. Delmage and Allan McDougall. They brought me to the district now called Cameron. McTavish's and Camerons were previously settled here." "My first shanty, a commodious dwelling 11 feet by 13 feet, complete even to a lock and fireplace, was fashioned from timber on the farm. The only tools used were an axe and jack-knife. In this I had a dutch oven in which I baked my bannocks. The cost of the shanty was fifty cents paid for a pane of glass for the window. I broke a couple of acres, one I sowed to oats and the other to wheat. In the fall I went to High Bluff to harvest. While away, Sandy Kippen cradled my crop. The oats I kept in sheaf for the oxen and the wheat I hauled to McTavish's to be threshed. When I came back from High Bluff I added to my livestock by bringing a half dozen hens. By '81 I had 20 acres broken. That spring I drew seed from near where Eden is now and planted my big crop with great expectations. A hail storm came on June 27 and there was nothing left of the crop."

Cameron school meeting in 1885. First school built by James Brown. Teacher Peter McTavish. Trustees: Alex Cameron, L. McArthur and A. Grant.

Mr. George Soulsby came by boat to Portage la Prairie in 1878 and walked to Minnedosa along the trails. There was very high water at Westburne and a man rowed him across the White Mud River in a boat. He went to Odanah to get potatoes and a man rowed him across the Little Saskatchewan in a buffalo skin (?). At the same time he met a horse dealer and bought a pony at \$25.00. His potato sacks were too heavy for the horse so he traded some potatoes for a piece of "Shaganapi". Walking across country to his home-stead was hard work on account of vetches, pea vines and muskeg.

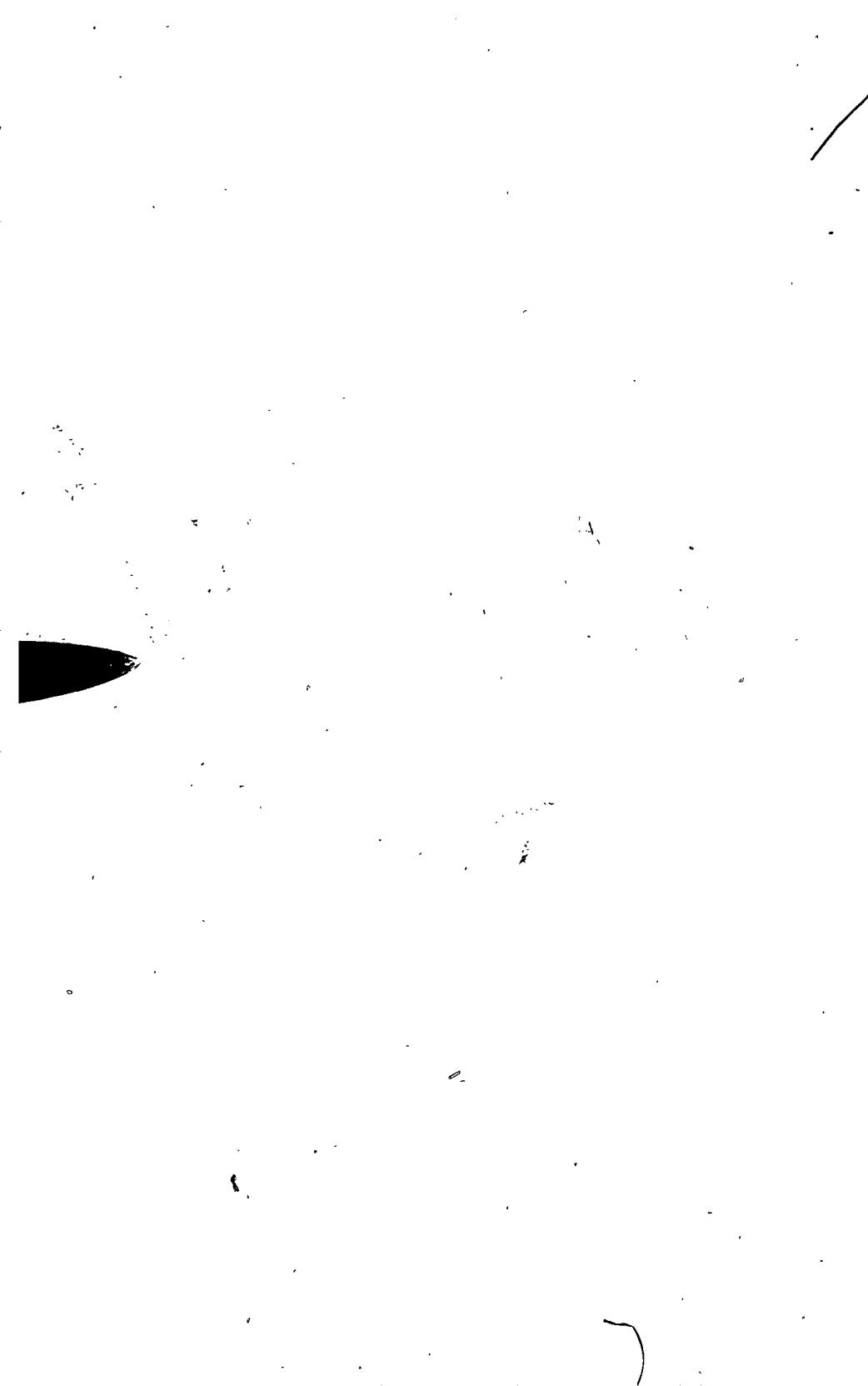
Mr. W. G. Sanderson pays him this tribute: "He was at all times respected by his neighbors for his straightforward and honorable dealings in all matters of business and noted as the only resident in the Clanwilliam district, who batched for over 52 years and drove nothing but oxen for over 50 years.

Mrs. R. G. McAree, one of the pioneer women who came west to Winnipeg with her mother and younger sons of the family from Orangeville, Ontario in September 1874 (by the all Canada route) tells of her final trip after she married and had two little children. Her husband had been in the grocery business with R. W. A. Rolph in Winnipeg but they were attracted by the stories of the settlement at the Little Saskatchewan so they sold out the Government business.

In her "Memories of my trip to Manitoba" Mrs. McAree writes—"In the spring of 1880 we made our preparations for a long cold trip, very carefully. We had a caboose built of $\frac{1}{2}$ -in. lumber, size 7 by 12 feet with a car roof and covered with heavy canvas and painted. This was put on heavy sleighs on oak cross bars, and fastened with bolts. It was ready to move into. We had a bedstead across the back and with plenty of bedding and a cook stove in the end next to the door. An enclosed wash stand, which was my cupboard until we got a house built. The sewing machine along one side, and a long box of provisions on the other side between the bed and the stove, a large buffalo robe on the floor and my rocking chair in the centre. The rest of our furniture was packed on another sleigh with a hay-rack on it. We were all ready to start on the morning of March 15th, with our two little



BUSINESS MEN—E. J. Darroch, H. S. Taylor, W. A. Ayearst, A. C. Sewell,
R. B. Rook, A. W. Shaw



boys aged respectively two years and the baby four months. The baby rested in the bed very comfortably, the other little fellow was busy all day, but good. Three other young men who were going to their homestead near Strathclair with a team and a load of the necessities for batching, joined us for company. Each night we stopped by a stopping House and got the horses in a stable. As soon as they stopped, my husband and I started the fire and cooked bacon for all, and all had supper. The first night the men of the party took their robes and blankets into the house and paid 25c each for the privilege of spreading their bed on the floor to rest but in the morning they were tired as there were people coming in during the night and stumbling over them. We decided we could do better than that for them, so next evening when they went to fix up the horses we hung up a sheet in front of the bed and I disappeared with my little folks while Dad spread their robes on the floor for them. Fancy, five men, a woman and two children sleeping in the caboose 7 by 12. We slept well, too! Up early in the morning, breakfast, and we were off again, and on the 8th day we arrived at the Crossing and found our lot, and the caboose was raised up and the sleigh drawn from under it. We had fine weather all the way but the next day a heavy snow storm came on and we had very little wood, but a large log building had just been put up and Dad carried green chips in a clothes basket on his head. That storm lasted nearly three days. Our young friends had gone on and we felt those three days the hardest we had, but before summer came we thought we were pretty well off, seeing so many people coming through with tents, and bedding drenched, and some with little children. We were able to help a good many, always having a good fire in the evening, and the kettle full of hot water for them, and by the end of June there was a settlement of tents. A sawmill was started by J. S. Armitage and the lumber was used as fast as it was cut. We bought a set of logs and got them up soon, but it was September before we could get lumber to finish the house.

May 1st several men started out to find homesteads. Mine located 3½ miles south of town. We had 50 acres of breaking done that summer. The next spring we moved out and then we knew something of the state of the roads. Very few people were getting through without having to unload in the middle of a slough and carry their things through on their backs. The mosquitoes were very plentiful and busy, but we got settled that summer. We could not get a supply of good water so after trying in three places we prepared to catch all the rain water we could to supply the house with."

The McAree's soon moved and settled east of town in Westhope district. Mrs. McAree lived all her remaining days near Minnedosa and was always most helpful to all in time of sickness or need. In November, 1940, she passed away at the ripe age of 86 years. Several baby girls were since named Charlotte in her honor.

Mrs. A. L. Clark (Aggie Darroch) Toronto. We came to Minnedosa on the M. & N.W. in the fall of 1883. The railway had just been completed that far. We stayed at the Grand Central Hotel which was then run by Mr. Grant. My father, E. J. Darroch bought grain in those days and the warehouse was near the station. He also had a grocery store a little east of the hotel and we lived in the back and upstairs. Mr. Rook's blacksmith shop was next door. We were a little afraid of the Indians when they came to the store with berries and baskets to sell. Later my father went in with Mr. E.

O. Denison's general store for a while. Dr. Roche was our doctor and I can see him yet as he brought his young wife to get acquainted with my mother after he was married. As we grew up the Sunday school Christmas Trees and entertainments were always a thrill as there were no movies or radios in those days. I remember being a queen in a Cantata that Mr. W. B. St. John was putting on.

When I was about thirteen years old, we moved to a house a little north-east of the hotel and some years later to the Malcolm farm. (Rex Dyers) While there my mother died. Laurier was running for Premier in the '90's and I was introduced to him when he was in town. Later we moved to Neepawa.

Ones I remember well in Minnedosa were Mr. Boyd, the postmaster, and his son Frank, Mr. Hilliard, Cuddy Myers, the Bolton's, Halpenny's and Beddomie's. Mr. Grierson was my teacher. My brother Arthur was older than I, Herb and Nettie and four others were younger.

Mrs. Maggie (Young) Moore, now living in Phoenix, wrote as follows: "Early in the spring of 1879, George Young and his wife, Jessie (McGillvray) Young and two small daughters, Margaret and Susanna left Kincardine, Bruce County, Ontario for Tanner's Crossing, coming by way of Rat Portage. At Rat Portage, father bought a cookstove and we came by ox team. Mother sat on the seat of a hay mower which was in the load, holding us two children on her knees. The mosquitoes were so thick that the oxen would often lie down and roll to get rid of these. Father was a framer and built many of the first houses, made of logs, in Minnedosa. At first we lived in one of the lean-to's beside John Tanner's house. Mr. Henderson had his store first in a dug-out in the side of the hill south of the present cemetery road and near by was a lime kiln where lime stones were burned to get lime for plaster. The roof of the store was poles with grass and then sod on top.

The first wooden bridge was across the river a block east of where the present one now is.

Mother made shirts for father, knit mitts, socks, and made all her own clothes and those of us children. Our home was across the street from the Wake family and Maggie Wake and I were chums, and when people met us it would be "Maggie who and Maggie What?" I was at the wedding of Harriet Wake and James Proven in the old St. Mark's church and also at the double weddings of Mr. Burgess and Edith Wake, and J. McQuarrie and Carrie Burgess. Mrs. Wake was like a second mother to me.

At school my nickname was "Brigham" as I was the only "Young" in school. I was five years old when I started. "Wick" Harrison would look out the window at noon and tell us little ones that the Indians were coming. Then we would run and hide. In those days children were spanked for punishment. I got one which did me from then on. Mr. Campbell put me across his knee, meaning business and I was so humiliated I couldn't look at him. The seats were long benches with one board for a back rest. One day Wick Harrison got his head stuck between the board and the seat and couldn't get out. The teacher worked patiently to get him out but his ears always would get stuck.

Finally she told someone to bring an axe. Wick was so frightened he got his head out before the axe arrived.

During the early days men would go to a general store wanting something and the merchant went to the shelf where all makes of dishes and



BUSINESS MEN—Edward Pearson, J. W. Black, David Cannon, John McMillan,
E. O. Denison, Ernest Pearson, John Wake, W. B. St. John, J. F. Boyd



crockery were. Lifting the lid of a chamber he'd dip in and get a good horn of whiskey. I saw it done!

One day I wanted to go to see a new baby but it was so cold mother warned me to be careful and not get frozen. I got tired and sat down to rest on a snow drift near Mr. and Mrs. Jim Brown's (Mrs. Margaret Brown). Someone saw me and carried me into the house. The left side of my face was frozen so they soaked a handerchief in coal oil and put it on. It proved a quick remedy. That cured me of following up the stork.

When John Stewart was dairyman he had two barrels for milk and a hole near the bottom of the barrel. He doled it out as the customer required it.

Rev. Jukes and his wife used to entertain the children in their home with games and a lunch. J. D. Gillis sometimes held a concert with magic lantern slides and a story read by Frank Boyd. Sometimes they were held above the store. There would be singing and everyone took part and enjoyed the show. A skating rink with a straw roof was built and water hauled to pour inside boards 1x12 inches, to make good ice.

Mrs. Harriet (Wake) Proven wrote: "I remember coming to Minnedosa in September of 1880, being eleven days driving from Winnipeg in a covered wagon. Father, mother, eight of us and a hired man, one team of horses, one team of oxen, one pony in a Red River cart, and 65 head of cattle and oxen. Coming in over the south hills past where the Court House now is, down through Main Street and through a big hole, then up over the bridges and down through mud and water and willow roots to where the C.P.R. track now is. Mother and the children walked across on a little foot bridge. Father and Henry had to drive the cattle through. We had to sleep in the covered wagon and tents until November."

There was one general store on the south side, two general and one grocery store on the north side. I went up on the hills the first Sunday we were here and counted 28 buildings including houses and stables."

Mrs. O. Averill came with her husband from England and reached Portage la Prairie in June, 1880. From there they came to Minnedosa by oxen in a covered wagon, starting on June 7th and being ten days on the way. As with many others, they sent their trunks up the river to Grand Valley (Brandon).

A story is told about Cannon E. A. W. Gill: During the time the present St. Mark's church was being built, Mr. Gill put on overalls and worked with those volunteers who hauled so many stones. One farmer who had spent several weeks at it with team and wagon asked Mr. Gill (in fun) where he would go to get his pay. The Reverend gentleman, pointing upward, replied, "Up there, Arthur, up there."

In the early days names were sometimes noted as unusual. One collection of these was—Hunter, Catcher, Skinner and Tanner. Another collection was three ministers whose names were Gill, Lemon and Todd, and some wit thought it would be fun to ask for "A gill of Lemon toddy."

From H. Rose:—

Blackbirds. This part of the country was especially favorable to the breeding of birds. In the many sloughs all kinds of ducks were abundant and in the autumn they became so much an article of diet that "duck or no dinner" was quite an expression among the bachelors. This expression originated, I think, with our well known Mr. Johnson Forsyth of early times.

But the blackbirds, who found the rushes about the sloughs great nesting places, were not so much prized by the settlers, they to a large degree lived at the settlers' expense. And they existed by the millions. The crop acreage of the early settler was necessarily small the first few years and by the time he had his field of oats beginning to fill, the mother blackbird had made her brood of young ready to be filled. From then on until the grain was in the granary, the birds were continually filling. I have seen fields of a few acres not worth harvesting. I have seen acres cut down and lay over Sunday before stooking and on Monday you could scarcely find an oat in the part of the sheaf exposed to view, and stooks had to be capped at all times to protect them from utter destruction. Shoot them! Yes, we did, but somehow it did not lessen them and it did not frighten them. I have known 24 picked up as a result of one charge of shot, but the largest was told by Mrs. John Norquay.

She said: "They were such a pest and would come so near she tried them with some grain. She scattered a quantity along the path in a convenient position and as they collected to eat, shot them. In this way from one charge she picked up seventy birds, killed." Surely she could have "four and twenty blackbirds to bake in a pie."

Grasshoppers. Mr. John Norquay tells the following tale of the grasshoppers. He said: "One afternoon as we were going to make hay, south east from the bend in the river where the town of Minnedosa now stands, we saw in the west apparently 30 or 40 miles away a great cloud arising as if from a very large fire, and one remarked the peculiarity of it, as it was not the time of year for prairie fires. As we went to our work we did not pay any attention to the cloud or its movements, but as we returned home in the evening we saw that on the southwest side of our wagon road for a mile or more and as far as we could see the country was alive with grasshoppers. It was remarked that the further prospects for hay were pretty small if that swarm stayed around a few days. We went home with very gloomy prospects. On the following morning as the sun arose, the hoppers again decided to change quarters. A gentle breeze sprang up from the N.W. and that was the last we ever saw of them.

When we returned to our hay making, for a long distance and as wide as we could see, the country was as black as if a fire had run over it. Not a vestige of green vegetation was in sight. Such was the work of that swarm of grasshoppers in so few hours."

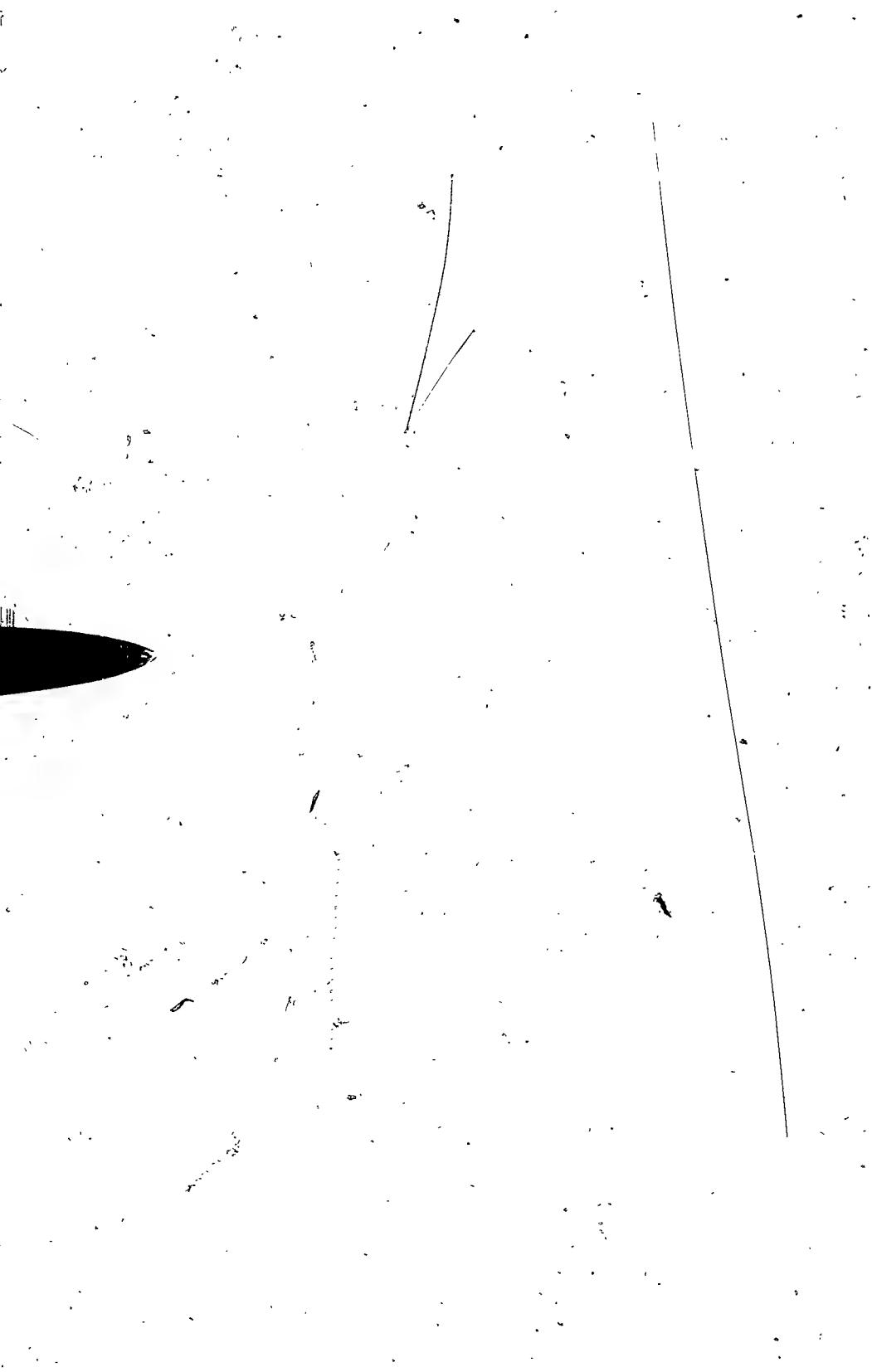
Mosquitoes. The reports of enormous numbers of mosquitoes that tormented the early settlers of upper and lower Canada a century or more ago seemed beyond belief, but after the real experience of them in Manitoba for a summer one is ready to believe almost anything concerning them.

The marshy land and the small sloughs full of water all summer seemed an ideal place for them to breed and the long unburned grass of the year's production was a hiding place for millions of them, until the damp and sultry days of summer and the shades of evening called them forth; then woe betide the man or animal that was exposed to their assaults.

Here let me quote the experience of a gentleman from Montreal who, under the name of "Rusticus" was writing up the country for the benefit of its readers in the Montreal Witness under date of August 13th, 1879. He says, "I started for Fort Ellice accompanied by an army of the most ferocious mosquitoes I have yet seen, whose appetites seemed to be whetted by



MR. AND MRS. JOSEPH BURGESS



the warm musty weather, and which, out of spite apparently, wreaked their vengeance on my little mustang, because my net prevented them from biting myself. Their tortures made him very restless, and to assist in driving away his tormentors, I got a willow bush and with it brushed his sides, shoulders and neck, but could not reach those that attacked the under part of his belly. The poor animal in trying to drive them away by a forward fling of his hind feet struck my heel with his hoofs, and to prevent further damage, I dismounted, preferring to walk rather than be kicked in this manner. I had not gone far when he, after several trials, succeeded in placing his hind foot in the stirrup and nearly threw himself on the ground."

This may seem an enlarged story but could be corroborated by many experiences quite equal in those days. The "net" to which he referred is made of netting for the purpose and was made like a bag drawn close at each end by elastic, one end fitting closely around your neck and the other above a broad brimmed hat which fits closely around the band. The hat rim thus kept the tormentors from your face and also gave you space to breath.

Certainly these were curses to man and beast and the English language could scarcely give expression to the vile epithets pronounced upon this, one of the troubles of the early settler. As the country became more settled and the sloughs drained and the old grass burned in the spring the pest was much reduced in numbers but still some seasons they are quite a nuisance to herds of cattle at pasture, especially in the morning and evening.

PROGRESS

Section 14

So the years have passed, the pioneers have aged and many of them have passed on to the Great Beyond, leaving a rich heritage to those who follow. Instead of the log houses lit by candles or coal oil lamps, we have lumber, brick or tile houses where electric lights are installed and power is available to hook up to our washers, irons, etc. Instead of the Red River carts and covered wagons rumbling over the prairie trails we see up-to-date cars, trucks and moving vans speeding along gravel roads and paved highways.

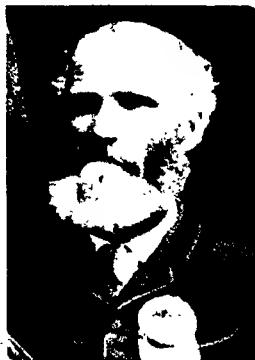
Our town is at the cross-road of two main highways, No. 4 and No. 10. and buses pass through four times a day connecting all the neighboring towns besides a long distance route to Edmonton or Winnipeg.

Since World War II a new bus depot and tea room has been built for the use of travellers. Where our fathers plowed with a one blade walking plow, their sons ride modern tractors which pull three share plows or one-waydisc. In the fall combines do the work of the former horse-drawn binders and threshing machines and the farmers complete the season's work with much less hard work.

The population of Minnedosa has increased to over 1,800 persons and new trades have been introduced though some old ones have dropped out. The sawmill and grist mill have gone, and a modern lumber yard supplies lumber, tiles, insulating material, etc. to the public. Trucks bring wood for fuel from the bush back north and many homes are now using coal or oil for heating, having modern stokers or oil burning furnaces. Two bakeries supply most of the bread used, though housewives who are economical buy their flour from the stores and make their own bread from quick-rising yeast instead of that made from hops and potato water.

A beautiful park was made in the west bend of the river and tourist cabins were erected. Garages and filling stations have been built in each corner of town; a woodcraft shop, accountant office, and dry cleaners have come in since the war, also radio and electric supply stores have opened. A large curling rink and new skating rink serve the sport fans, and skiing on the hills has become a popular winter sport. A Youth Council with adult advisory group has been elected and plans are being made for having a Physical Training instructor hired to supervise the youth.

Our public buildings include the Court House, Post Office with R.C.M.P. offices, and Armories. The same town hall still stands since before 1890 but we dream of a new municipal building which will house the needful offices. We also hope the day may not be too long distant before we shall have a public sewage system.



EARLY PIONEERS—B. Beddome, R. A. Cowan, Chas. Delmage, Thomas Jackson, Mr. and Mrs. Angus Grant





P. J. McDermott store



"P.J." and dog



F



The Minnedosa W.I. wishes to thank the following for their execelent response to our appeal, and the help received in publishing the History of Minnedosa:

The Business Men and Councils
for the Advertising.

The Canadian Legion for reproducing
the picture of Gen. Dyer.

The Oddfellows for reproducing
their Charter Members.

Also several individuals for assistance
with old pictures.

Compliments

of

Minnedosa Hotel

A SALUTE TO THE PIONEERS
from the son of a pioneer family;
the late John McMillan, pioneer
merchant of '82, and Mrs. Annie
McMillan, '89.

G. C. (Gerry) McMillan

McMillan's Dry Goods

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Phone 124
Minnedosa

Gerelus Bowladrome

and

Snack Bar

Phone 69

Grant's Florist

**Grants Dining
Service**

Phone 30

Thos. R. Lowres

Physicians Prescription Centre

Day Phone 21 Night Phone 184

This page is presented with

the Compliments of

The Town of Minnedosa

1949 Council:

Mayor — J. A. Burgess

F. Bajus

W. S. Taylor

R. J. Preston

T. R. Lowres

W. M. Wilson

H. H. Smith

Sec.-Treas. — T. H. Murton

WE'VE COME A LONG WAY

In 1878, two years after its invention, the Telephone came to Manitoba.

In 1889, Taylor Brothers in Minnedosa had a Telephone of their own.

In 1900, The Minnedosa Telephone Office had 33 subscribers.

Minnedosa now has more than 600 Telephones, and there are more than 125,000 in the Province of Manitoba.

Manitoba Telephone System

Chipperfield Bros.

General Merchants

Congratulate the Minnedosa Womens Institute
on the publication of
The History of Minnedosa

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STEVENS DRUG STORE

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This firm is proud to pay honor to the first settlers who did so much to open up this part of Manitoba

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Minnedosa

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Plumbing Supplies, Water Softeners
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Minnedosa

J. Traquair, Tailor

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Clothing

Cleaning — Pressing
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Stan's Cleaners

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Phone 84
Minnedosa, Man.

Minnedosa Farm Equipment

Phone 125

I.H.C. Sales and Service
Farmhand Hydraulic Loader
Maytag Washers
Viking Grain Cleaners

R. C. A. Store

Ladies' Wear
Men's Wear
Girls' Wear
Boys' Wear

M. A. CLOW, Prop.

M. A. Johnston

BARBER

In Business continually for the
past 47 years

Cleverley's Bakery

Established business on
October 22, 1919

The Hodgson Agencies

"Years of Service throughout
Minnedosa and District."

Real Estate and Insurance
of all Classes

Phone 118 Old, Pearson Block

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MERCURY - LINCOLN - METEOR

Sales and Service

Auto Body Shop

Situated on Site of Old Stone Barn
North End

Established
April, 1947

Genuine Ford Parts
North Star Products

Phone
19

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THE ROYAL BANK OF CANADA

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Eyes Tested

Day Phone 21 Night Phone 184

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Bus Depot**

Lunches

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The Valley Lumber Company

Phone 38

J. R. Fetterly, Mgr.

A. C. EWENS

John Deere Sales and Service

Shop phone 2

House 269

H. H. SMITH

Phone 27

The Minnedosa Tribune

Serving the Minnedosa District

Since 1883

The Co-Operative Story

This is the story of "people with a purpose"; of how a far seeing group of Minnedosa and district citizens, following in the footsteps of the Rochdale Weavers, organized the first Co-Operative in the district. How, with perseverance and faith, they saw the shareholders' initial assets of \$2,600.00 grow in 20 years to \$103,000.00. During this period more and more people have seen the benefits of Co-Operation and have become members with equal rights.

Where during its first year of operation, 1930, the membership totalled 130, and sales volume was \$29,000.00, it has now grown to over 600 members and the sales in 1949 will reach \$190,000.00.

No doubt you all know the charter members. But in case you don't, their names are worthy of repetition. Richard Storey who became the first president, T. H. (Herb) Taylor the first secretary, Claude E. Meadows, Reuben Broome, Jack M. Dyer, Fred Charles, Wm. J. Pittman, truly people with a purpose. Most of these originals are still with us. They organized their Consumers' Co-Operative with the express purpose of providing a central buying organization where the members could purchase the essentials of life from themselves, and in doing so could realize a saving. This saving would benefit not only themselves, but the community as a whole, as a dollar saved at a Co-Operative is a dollar saved for the district, none of the savings being bled from the district as they are in chain stores and corporations.

The growth and benefits of these organizations in North America have merely begun. In Great Britain one out of every three persons is a member of a Co-Operative. In Sweden 98 per cent of all consumer business is done in this manner.

We now have local, provincial, national and international Co-operatives; a sound foundation for world understanding and peace, but much is yet to be accomplished. Do your share by joining your local Co-Operative and upholding Co-operative principles; you will find no truer form of democracy.

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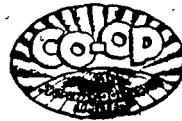
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